

Its Profile

V&A served as a role model for many American museums, including those of Baltimore, Boston, and Brooklyn, New York. The idea was to use the museum as an educational institution, to teach art and design, to be useful, to do something for the public," Borg said.

In truth, in creating the Museum of Modern Art in 1929, just after the Great Exhibition of 1881, the government was principally as a way of raising the standards of British design in the context of the Industrial Revolution.

Its educational role was added by its founding director, Henry Cole, who saw the museum being "elevated from being a mere unimpeachable lounge for idlers and an impressive schoolroom for everyone." He named the South Kensington Museum, it opened on its present site on the corner of Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road in 1857.

But by May 1890, when Queen Victoria gave the museum its present name in memory of her consort, the V&A had lost its popular touch. Even now, while the V&A has many fervent admirers, a good many Londoners stay away, believing erroneously that it is a museum of Victorian art.

In looking to the future, Borg has therefore sought inspiration in the museum's earlier years. "I think the museum should be trying to lead life, to show people what is good design from the past and the present," he said. "We should take some risks, we can even say, 'This will be the next big thing'."

He clearly has plenty on his plate, with managing the museum's 800 member staff and an annual budget of about £40 million (\$65 million), promoting its new contemporary image and finding the money for the £30 million renovation of the British Galleries. As a result, many Londoners expect believe that the Spiral is too ambitious.

Borg, though, is unfazed. He said that the success of the new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, had shown what modern architecture can do for a city. He also noted that according to polls commissioned by the V&A, public attitudes toward the spiral in London had gone from largely hostile to slightly favorable.

"Just as changing opinions resulted in planning permission, we're not unhappy that opinion will also swing the future of the museum," Borg said. "The next 20 years are important because we have a museum we have support."



ing to an on-line poll for TV Guide.



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Rising Joblessness Tears at Japan's Social Cohesion

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Last June, Takaharu Akimoto's boss politely and apologetically asked him to quit his job as a production manager at Shosha Manufacturing Co., a midsize engine-parts manufacturer affiliated with the beleaguered Nissan Motor Co.

"I said to myself, 'Impossible!'" Mr. Akimoto recalled. "I told him I didn't want to quit, please let me stay longer."

But in today's Japan, the impossible has become possible, and in December, seven years shy of his retirement, Mr. Akimoto "quit" and joined the 2.91 million other Japanese who are officially looking for a job.

"This is the worst period of my life," he said. "I've had some serious setbacks before, but this is totally different."

Japan has been suffering its highest rate of unemployment since the government started keeping statistics in 1953. Almost twice as many people are looking for jobs as there are job openings, and many of the available positions are in low-paying, unskilled areas.

That strikes a blow to the heart of Japan's self-image, and the whole country is reeling. Although unemployment is low compared with the rate in many other countries, full employment, or close to it, is a key clause in the social contract that has kept the public complacent and one political party in power in Japan almost consistently since World War II.

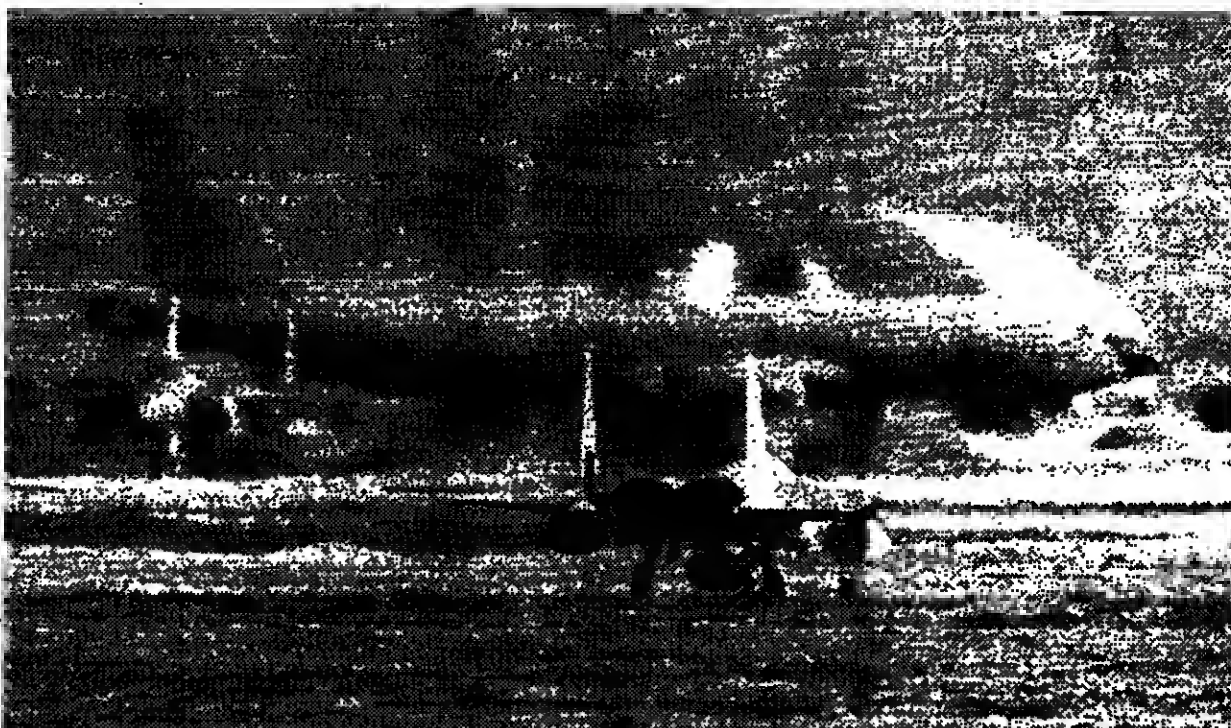
Now, for the first time since the lean years after the country's defeat in the war, most Japanese know someone who is out of a job and fear that they could be next.

In addition to the challenge of finding work, the jobless are battling shame and despair. Mr. Akimoto, for example, kept his quitting a secret from his wife for a week.

"I was at a loss as to how we would survive," he said.

The humiliation sometimes flares into anger, an emotion rarely on public display in Japan. An irate job-seeker waved his fist in the face of a television reporter filming at one branch of the government employment agency known as Hello Work, accusing the reporter of invading

See JAPAN, Page 4.



A U.S. F-15 jet preparing for takeoff Wednesday at the Incirlik base in southern Turkey for a patrol over Iraq.

U.S. Widening Its Targets in Iraq

By Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The almost daily U.S. air strikes against Iraq have turned into the equivalent of a low-intensity war, hitting a wide range of military sites. While the Pentagon seeks to justify the attacks by calling them defensive, some of the targets pose little immediate threat to U.S. or British pilots flying patrol over much of Iraq.

Operating under rules that allow pilots — if attacked or threatened — to strike at any targets, U.S. fighter jets have pounded more than a dozen sites in north and south Iraq in the last four days.

On Tuesday, for the first time, the targets included a newly completed missile site that could threaten ships in the Gulf, Pentagon officials said.

And in the last month, U.S. planes, recently joined by British jets, have attacked more anti-aircraft batteries and surface-to-air missile batteries than they did during the four nights of intense raids in December.

Including the Tuesday raids, the Americans and British have struck more than 40 targets.

The raids in December were meant to set back Iraq's ability to make chemical and biological weapons in the wake of President Saddam Hussein's repeated refusal to cooperate with United Nations weapons inspectors.

The aim of this new wave of attrition, officials said, is to put pressure on President Saddam's isolated government and armed forces to keep him on the defensive, even as the United States openly advocates the overthrow of the Iraqi leader.

Officials at the Pentagon say the latest strikes have dealt a blow to Iraq's ability to threaten the American and British patrols. By one intelligence estimate, Iraq has lost about 20 percent of its air-defense weapons since the December raids.

"We're being effective, taking out his air defenses piece by piece," an official said.

But Iraq has remained defiant. On Monday, Baghdad

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EU Warns Italy On Deficit Criteria For Single Currency

'Over-Optimistic' 3-Year Budget Plan Should Be Revised, Commission Says

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The European Commission fired a warning shot across Italy's bow Wednesday, saying Rome's growth forecasts seemed "over-optimistic" and questioning whether it could sustain the economic performance required for membership in the European single currency, the euro.

The European Union's executive agency recommended that the Italian government resubmit its three-year budget plan. Italian officials insisted that the government would be able to keep to the criteria, but the warning revived old fears about Italy's ability to keep its economy in line with other countries in the currency union.

Although Italy made heroic efforts in becoming one of the 11 countries adopting the euro, concern was expressed in Germany and elsewhere about its historically high levels of public debt and deficit. Now, the commission has suggested that Italy may have to do more to comply with the euro zone's economic targets.

The commission's assessment followed warnings by the European Central Bank that several member countries are not making enough of an effort to assure that their budgets are balanced or in surplus.

The commission's findings will be debated Monday by finance ministers of the 11 countries forming part of the currency zone, and if its assessment is confirmed, the ministers are likely to instruct Italy to present a revised program, officials said.

At the same time, the commission said Britain and Sweden, which are not members of the economic and monetary union, fully met the single currency requirements. It said Portugal met the requirements but had insufficient margin for maneuver if economic conditions worsened.

Italian officials said Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi would show new figures to the EU finance ministers next week to prove that Italy's budget and economic forecasts were realistic. In Rome, Mr. Ciampi said the presentation of a three-year economic program in the spring should satisfy the commission's request for a revised Italian medium-term budget proposal.

The commission also warned that because of

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Second Thoughts About East Timor

Indonesia's Offer of Independence Now Suspect as Violence Flares

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — Far from pacifying rebellious East Timor, Indonesia's offer of independence is fanning a cycle of violence that could make early sovereignty impossible, diplomats and aid workers said Wednesday.

In fact, some analysts now think that Jakarta's surprise statement last week was intended to whip up controversy and conflict in the former Portuguese colony to strengthen the case for it to remain part of Indonesia.

This suspicion has been increased by the disclosure that the Indonesian military is paying and arming a large militia force in East Timor that critics say is terrorizing the majority of the population there that favors independence. Indonesia annexed the territory as a province in 1976 in a move that has not been recognized by most governments.

Meanwhile, pro-Indonesian loyalists say that they are resorting to arms because they feel intimidated by pro-independence groups, who they say also have guns.

"There's a tremendous potential for violence," a senior Western diplomat said. "The lid is now off. Rival groups in East Timor are struggling for position."

About 30 persons are reported to have been killed in political violence in East Timor in the week since Jakarta first held out the prospect of independence, and critics say the Indonesian government and military could use the rising tension and conflict as a reason for remaining there to keep the peace.

Such a situation clearly strengthens the government's argument that the best option for the territory is not independence — and the risk of civil war — but a large measure of self-government within Indonesia.

The foreign ministers of Indonesia

and Portugal are to meet in New York on Sunday and Monday for more talks on the future of the territory, which United Nations officials hope will result in an agreement on an autonomy package.

The agreement has been under negotiation for months and was supposed to have been completed by the end of 1998. But there is no accord yet between the two sides on the key question of how to gauge whether a majority of East Timorese support autonomy and whether such autonomy should be a stepping stone to an act of self-determination that would include a vote on independence in a referendum supervised by the United Nations.

Portugal has long supported such an outcome, and Indonesia strongly opposes it.

In an interview in the International Herald Tribune on Wednesday, Foreign

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Xanana Gusmao, an imprisoned East Timorese separatist leader, left, greeting Louis Joinet, a UN human rights representative, on Wednesday.

Germany Searches Soul With Debate On Citizenship

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Rarely can the far-right anti-immigration parties of Germany make common cause with mainstream politics.

But the radical right is having a field day, throwing its unsolicited and unwelcome support behind a petition drive by the established center-right parties that is meant to oppose a relaxation of Germany's rigid citizenship laws by the new left-leaning government.

"This campaign is out of control," complained Cem Ozdemir, a Green party member of the Bundestag who is of Turkish origin. "The problem is that it is being used by the far right. It has become anti-foreigner and anti-non-German."

What started last month as an opposition effort to collect enough signatures to weaken a key domestic policy initiative by the new chancellor has inflamed a national debate over who should be allowed to become a German.

Bitter recriminations are flying, with the center-left government accusing opposition Christian Democrats of fomenting racism. Skirmishes have broken out at sidewalk stands where conservative party faithful collect signatures. Civic and religious leaders have begun to speak out, fretting that anti-foreigner sentiment could damage the nation's image.

"This campaign is unholy," said Environment Minister Juergen Trittin, a leader in the Greens, the junior partner in the Social Democratic-led government. "It is encouraging violence and splitting our society in half."

The unwanted support of the far right is both predictable and "very dangerous," said Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, which opposes the signature campaign.

The debate has become the latest instance of soul-searching to consume Germany since the elections in September. As a generation of leaders who never experienced World War II took over, they wrestled over the design of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin, legal claims by concentration camp survivors and arguments by Martin Walser, a prominent novelist, that he wears of nonstop reminders of the horrors of Auschwitz.

Those debates accompany declarations that the new Germany has become "normal" since its generational change. Under watchful police sentries, the sidewalk stands across Germany have become ad hoc forums for counter-demonstrators, far-right gawkers and spontaneous outbursts of angry argument with pedestrians.

The chairman of the far-right Republikaner Party, Rolf Schlatter, this week announced that the time had come to join forces with the center-right Christian Democrats. In an open letter to the

AGENDA

U.S. Outlines Size Of a Kosovo Force

Defense Secretary William Cohen told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that the administration might commit a "relatively small" U.S. ground force to Kosovo, but only if a firm peace agreement is reached between warring factions.

Other NATO members should make up the majority of such a force, he said. Pressed by senators on the likely size of the U.S. contingent, General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested that a maximum of 2,000 to 4,000 U.S. troops might be required if NATO decided on an overall force of 20,000.

He stressed that the number was hypothetical. Page 5.

The Dollar			
New York	Wednesday 4 P.M.	previous close	
Euro	1.1295	1.1341	
Pound	1.8358	1.8388	
Yen	112.975	112.145	
DM	1.7303	1.7228	
FF	5.8031	5.7847	
Dollars per unit and per 100			
The Dow			
Wednesday close	percent change		
+ \$2.89	8,366.81	+ 1.00%	
S&P 500			
+ 10.05	1,272.03	+ 0.80%	
Nasdaq			
+ 28.73	2,493.15	+ 1.21%	

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Gondola Victims Honored / Marines on Trial for Involuntary Manslaughter

A Memorial Service and a Court-Martial

By Steve Vogel
Washington Post Service

IN THE LITTLE town of Cavalese, set amid the majestic peaks of Italy's Dolomite Mountains, families from across Europe gathered Wednesday to unveil a memorial inscribed with 20 names. One year ago a U.S. Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler flew fast and low on a training mission up the Val di Fiemme and cut through cables holding a gondola carrying skiers from Cavalese to the slopes. The gondola plummeted to the valley floor and the 20 persons aboard — from Italy, Germany, Poland, Belgium and the Netherlands — were killed.

The passage of a year has done little to cool passions raised by the accident, which outraged many Italians, angered and bereaved family members, caused trouble between Washington and Rome and compromised the careers of the four Marine officers in the plane.

"It still hurts like it did the first day," Cindy Renkewitz, 20, one of the family members who traveled to Cavalese, said Tuesday in a phone conversation from the resort town. Her father and sister were among seven persons from the Eastern German town of Burgstadt who were killed.

The grief of family members has been further inflamed by bitterness that the U.S. government has yet to compensate in a major way families of those who died. The pilot and navigator stand accused of manslaughter for flying their jet too fast and too low. Marine commanders are accused of failing to properly equip the flyers and of bowing to political pressures in agreeing to charge the crew members.

Some family members plan to fly soon to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where the pilot of the plane, Captain Richard Ashby, faces a court-martial, beginning Thursday, on 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter. The navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, faces a separate court-martial on similar charges on March 1. If convicted, they could spend the rest of their lives in prison.

The Prowler was flying at up to 543 knots (624 miles an hour) when it struck the cable at a height of approximately 370 feet (112 meters), in violation of speed and altitude restrictions, according to estimates presented during preliminary hearings last summer.

Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Rodgers, who presided at the hearings, recommended that Captain Ashby be tried for involuntary manslaughter. But his report noted that a court-martial was in "substantial doubt" because of evidence of "systemic errors" on the part of the Marine Corps. The cable line, for example, was out on charts supplied to the crew.

SUPPORTERS OF Captain Ashby portray him as a scapegoat for Marine Corps failures. "This is unprecedented, to prosecute an air crew for an accident and make them criminally accountable," Frank Spinner, Captain Ashby's attorney, said.

But Colonel Rodgers, while voicing his doubts, also asserted that Captain Ashby might have been responsible for the accident by "overly aggressively" flying the plane. Colonel Rodgers also noted "questions raised by the evidence concerning Captain Ashby's professionalism."

A member of his Prowler squadron said the pilot had a reputation for being "cocky and aggressive" and for flying fast. Only 10 days before the accident, Captain Ashby had been counseled by supervisors about a low takeoff he made from the Aviano air base, according to court documents.



Victims' relatives weeping Wednesday at a memorial that was unveiled in the cemetery in Cavalese, Italy, on the first anniversary of the incident.

A key item of controversy involves a personal video camera carried by the crew to make a home video of the scenic mountain terrain through which they were flying. Colonel Rodgers said the decision to shoot a video during the flight "arguably indicates a somewhat cavalier approach to a challenging low-level route with which the pilot and crew were not intimately familiar."

Perhaps more damaging to the crew's case is what they did with the tape after the flight.

Captain Chandler Seagraves, who was in the rear cockpit during the accident, has told prosecutors that Captain Ashby and Captain Schweitzer asked him a week after the accident, "What do you think we should do with the videotape? And I said I would get rid of it." A few days later, Captain Seagraves said, the two told him, "It's gone. We destroyed it."

Captain Ashby and Captain Schweitzer have been charged with obstruction of justice over the missing videotape. However, in Captain Ashby's case, that charge will be heard at a separate court-martial at the request of the defense.

Captain Seagraves and a second Marine officer in the rear cockpit during the accident, Captain William Raney 2d, were cleared of any criminal wrongdoing last summer. Each has been granted immunity and is expected to testify in the court-martial. In his sworn statement, Captain Seagraves disputed government claims that the crew was deliberately flying too low and too fast.

The defense will focus on failures up the Marine Corps chain of command, including a faulty map given to the aviators and the fact that the crew was instructed that they could fly as low as 1,000 feet, instead of the usual 2,000-foot restriction.

The government counters that the map did show

another aerial cableway a few miles away, presenting the crew with ample warning that low-level flights in that area were dangerous. And prosecutors say the crew would have avoided the gondola had they obeyed the 1,000-foot restriction.

ANOTHER LINE of defense involves the plane's radar altimeter, a device that should have warned the crew of its low altitude. An investigation after the accident found it was working. However, Colonel Rodgers wrote that the device's history of breaking down raises the "distinct possibility" it failed to function properly during the fatal flight.

The defense also will rely heavily on a Marine investigator who testified last summer about a computer simulation that demonstrated that an optical illusion may have fooled the crew into not realizing how low the jet was flying.

The investigator, Colonel Thomas Blickensderfer, also testified that plans on how to conduct an investigation soon after the accident changed after senior Marine commanders were told that Romano Prodi, then the Italian prime minister, had warned President Bill Clinton, "You Americans may never operate out of Italy again."

But last month, the military judge who is expected to preside over the court-martial rejected defense motions to dismiss the cases because of improper command influence.

The gondola line at Cavalese, meanwhile, is back in service, thanks to a \$20 million appropriation from Congress.

But an effort by Senator Charles Robb, Democrat of Virginia, to include as much as \$60 million for the families of victims failed.

Shrinking Role Leaves Nigeria's Army Bitter

By Norimitsu Onishi
New York Times Service

KADUNA, Nigeria — Weakened by malaria, chilled by the dusty harmattan blowing down from the Sahara, his left ankle still healing from a recent fall off his pony, the retired colonel was going through a bad stretch.

Colonel Abubakar Umar, his eyes blotted out by sunglasses, sat by himself at the Kaduna Polo Club on a recent Saturday afternoon. He had hoped to resume playing Sunday. But a bout of malaria had derailed his plans and left him sitting in a chair by the sidelines, facing an empty field, with not even the strength to pick up the hardcover book on a table beside him, "Colonial Army and Society in Northern Nigeria."

"The military was used by the British to conquer territories," said the colonel, who was the military governor of Kaduna state in the 1980s.

"It is seen as a tool of colonialism," he said. "The kind of people they had had no choice but to serve the interests of the British. Some people argue that the military is a continuation of colonial rule."

But, the Nigerian military after independence is totally different from what it had been in colonial times.

After ruling the most populous African nation for many years, the Nigerian military is going through a collective bad stretch these days.

Abroad, its soldiers in a West African force were embarrassed in Sierra Leone when, under their watch, the capital, Freetown, almost fell to rebels in January. At home, a presidential election is scheduled for Feb. 27, as a step toward a handover to a civilian government in May.

Many Nigerians believe that powerful generals, who are playing a big role in the election, will retain their influence over the next government and that a truly civilian government will emerge only in four or five years.

But the possibility of losing official political power — amid a growing public outcry that any civilian candidate is better than a military one — has unsettled many old soldiers in Kaduna.

This city is the seat of the military, which has ruled Nigeria for all but 10 years since independence from Britain in 1960. Frederick Lugard, the British governor general who cobbled various territories together to create Nigeria in 1914, founded Kaduna and made it the seat of power of the north.

Today, more than three decades after the Nigerian military academy was created here, Kaduna also has become something of a retirement community for senior officers.

In the 1970s, the governor of Kaduna state started giving out free lots of land in the city to senior officers. Once they began building houses on the lots in recent years, they saw they were all neighbors.

Inside one of the gated houses, Yohanna Madaki, a retired colonel and a former military governor in eastern Nigeria, was fuming.

"I am not going to stand by and see anyone exclude me from my country," he said.

"It is most unfair and most painful to have the people lump us and say that we are incompetent because we are the military," Colonel Madaki said. "It is painful."

It is perhaps at the Kaduna Polo Club that the military finds its social and spiritual center.

The British introduced polo in 1904 in Lagos, the country's commercial capital in the south. But it was in the north, in the horse-riding cultures of the military and the emirs, that polo's popularity spread quickly; today, most of the 11 polo clubs in the country are dotted across the north. Until the late 1970s, when economic hard times strained the military's budget, polo was even mandatory at the national academy, Colonel Umar said.

Over the years, though, the Kaduna Polo Club has become a magnet not only for the military but also for powerful businessmen and politicians. Not joining could prove costly.

Consider Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, a Marxist who during a brief period of political openness in the late 1970s was elected governor of Kaduna. Soon after taking office, Mr. Musa received a written invitation, along with a mallet, to join the club.

He threw away the invitation and gave the mallet to a servant.

"I don't play polo," Mr. Musa said recently. "It is the game of the rich and powerful, of neocolonialists."

In 1981, after all his choices for commissioners were rejected by the legislature, Mr. Musa was ousted from office. But he had no regrets.

"A neocolonialist," he said, "is a person who is a shadow, a caricature, a zombie. He does something and doesn't know the meaning of it."

On a recent Sunday, no such talk could be heard in the bar of the Kaduna Polo Club. Instead, between one of the three matches, Ibrahim Abdullahi, a retired major and the secretary of the Nigeria Polo Association, waxed on about the different breeds of ponies.

"This is a pure Sudanese," he told a visitor, "and the landing cost is now about \$15,000."

Professional players, businessmen and the sons of sultans dominated the three matches.

Colonel Umar, still recovering from malaria, sat in the front row in the viewing stands, with a couple of fellow retired officers.

On this day, the officers did not play. But after each match, all the players filed past them and, in northern Nigeria's traditional gesture of respect, bowed their heads and raised clenched fists before them.

U.S. Airline Brings Fare War to East

By Laurence Zuckerman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Since discount airlines like People Express collapsed more than a decade ago, airfares on the East Coast have remained stubbornly high even as prices have fallen elsewhere in the United States.

But new fare-cutting competition has begun to arrive in the East, led by Southwest Airlines, the biggest and most successful discount airline. Next month, Southwest will take on the most lucrative market in the nation when it comes to travel dollars: New York. Beginning with flights to four cities from MacArthur Airport in Long Island, Southwest will offer fares that are as little as half of the lowest comparable fares.

While some question whether Southwest can draw passengers to an airport 40 miles (60 kilometers) outside Man-

hattan, the airline's track record so far on the East Coast suggests that New York air travelers — no matter which airport they use — can expect some fares to fall sharply.

In the last five years, Southwest has expanded to Baltimore, Providence, Rhode Island, Manchester, New Hampshire, and several cities in Florida.

At each airport, airfares have fallen sharply — even on routes not served by Southwest. Fares have also fallen at nearby airports.

US Airways, the largest airline in the region, and Delta Air Lines have responded to the challenge by expanding their new discount subsidiaries, which match Southwest's fares. The airlines have also sought to ward off Southwest by offering discounts in several markets it has yet to enter. Even the nation's biggest airline, United, is considering expanding its own low-cost subsidiary to the East Coast.

The airlines are eager to battle in the East because the region accounts for about 40 percent of the \$32 billion spent on airline tickets annually in the United States.

In Washington, where Southwest began its Eastern push at Baltimore-Washington International Airport in 1993, the average airfare paid on all airlines was 34 percent less at the end of June than they were before Southwest started flying, according to Back Associates, an aviation research firm in New Haven, Connecticut.

New York in particular is ripe for low-fare competition. With the exception of when People Express was flying, airfares on short routes always have been higher than the national average at the city's three airports since the airline industry was deregulated in 1978. But in recent years, as Southwest and other low-fare carriers have expanded in many parts of the country, the gap has widened.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Heavy Snowfall Snarls Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Heavy snow led to traffic accidents and disrupted air and rail travel Wednesday in central and western Japan.

At least 106 bullet trains linking Tokyo and western Japan were delayed for up to four hours, inconveniencing 85,000 passengers. In addition, local trains in cities along the Sea of Japan were canceled or delayed.

Sections of eight major highways in central and western Japan were closed because of poor visibility and snowfall. The snow left 10,000 travelers stranded after 106 domestic flights were canceled, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. reported. The airport in Hiroshima was closed temporarily because of the storm, forcing a flight from Singapore to divert to Fukuoka airport on Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu, said Yasushi Takeda, an official at the airport in Hiroshima.

Antibiotics May Reduce Risk of a Heart Attack

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Certain antibiotics may reduce the risk of heart attack, researchers reported Wednesday in a study that adds to a growing body of evidence suggesting that chronic infections may play a role in artery disease, heart attacks and strokes.

But researchers said it was premature to recommend that people take antibiotics to prevent heart attacks because infections had not been proved to cause heart disease. And the overuse of antibiotics has already helped to create dangerous strains of drug-resistant bacteria that are exceedingly hard to kill.

The latest finding comes from researchers at Boston University Medical Center, who compared the medical records of 3,315 people who had suffered heart attacks and 13,139 who had not. Those with healthy hearts were more likely to have taken certain antibiotics: tetracycline, which lowered the risk of heart attack by 30 percent, or quinolones (Ciprofloxacin, Enoxacin and other drugs), which decreased the risk by

55 percent. Other antibiotics did not reduce risk.

The drugs that did make a difference were especially effective against the bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, a common microbe that infects the respiratory tract and that many other studies have linked to heart disease. It can cause pneumonia, bronchitis and sinus infections but can also linger in the body without producing any symptoms at all. It is related to other chlamydial bacteria that infect the eyes and reproductive system.

But the researchers, whose work was published on Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, stressed that while the study showed that the drugs were associated with decreased risk of heart disease, it did not prove that the drugs caused the lowering of risk.

Dr. Herschel Jick of medicine at Boston University Medical Center in Lexington, Massachusetts, and leader of the study, warned that people should not start taking antibiotics to ward off heart attacks. "It's far from proof," he said.

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	Today	Low	High	Tomorrow	Low	High
Algeria	10-16	10-16	10-16	10-16	10-16	10-16
Amsterdam	9-14	9-14	9-14	9-14	9-14	9-14
Athens	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Berlin	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Bombay	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Buenos Aires	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Calcutta	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Chennai	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Cairo	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24
Colombo	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Copenhagen	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Dhaka	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Dubai	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24
Guangzhou	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Hong Kong	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
London	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Los Angeles	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Madras	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Mumbai	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
New Delhi	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Osaka	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Paris	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Rangoon	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Seoul	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Singapore	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Taipei	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Tokyo	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Yokohama	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18

Legend: s=sunny, c=partly cloudy, o=cloudy, sh=showers, th=thunderstorms, r=rain, dr=dry, snow, ice, fog, wind.

Asia	Today	Low	High	Tomorrow	Low	High
Algeria	10-16	10-16	10-16	10-16	10-16	10-16
Amsterdam	9-14	9-14	9-14	9-14	9-14	9-14
Athens	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Berlin	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Bombay	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Buenos Aires	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Calcutta	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Chennai	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Cairo	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24
Colombo	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Copenhagen	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Dhaka	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Dubai	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24	18-24
Guangzhou	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Hong Kong	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
London	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Los Angeles	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Madras	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Mumbai	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
New Delhi	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Osaka	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Paris	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
Rangoon	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Seoul	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Singapore	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30	24-30
Taipei	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Tokyo	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Yokohama	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18

Legend: s=sunny, c=partly cloudy, o=cloudy, sh=showers, th=thunderstorms, r=rain, dr=dry, snow, ice, fog, wind.

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Resort	Depth	Mts.	Res.	Snow	Last	Comments
Alps	80	100	Open	Ver	201	Some dry runs
Andorra	80	100	Open	Ver	201	Some dry runs
Austria	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Excellent snow cover throughout
Canada	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Good skiing, little bit of a little heavy
France	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Superb skiing
Germany	100	200	Open	Ver	201	All lifts open with great snow at top
Italy	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Excellent conditions, poor visibility
Japan	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Fairly good conditions on piste
Norway	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Spotted skiing at over resort
Sweden	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Still snowing, great powder
Switzerland	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Still snowing, great powder
USA	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Still snowing, great powder
UK	100	200	Open	Ver	201	Still snowing, great powder

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THE AMERICAS

Senators Struggle With Next Move as Outlook for Live Testimony Dims

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — House prosecutors completed their private questioning of witnesses Wednesday, but there was no sign of any sensational revelations and senators were searching for a way to register their disapproval of President Bill Clinton's conduct without removing him from office.

The Senate impeachment trial resumes Thursday, with senators facing decisions on whether to call any of the three witnesses — Monica Lewinsky, the president's friend Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal, a White House aide — for live testimony, and whether to release videotaped transcripts of the interviews.

On Wednesday, prosecutors questioned Mr. Blumenthal for about three hours, presumably about his earlier testimony that Mr. Clinton had told aides Ms. Lewinsky was a stalker. By day's end, few senators of either party were pushing for live witnesses.

The Senate minority leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, made it clear that Democrats supported calling witnesses. Emerging from a Democratic caucus, he said that the longer the trial continues, "the more it becomes a Republican trial." He urged a quick end.

Democrats also expressed opposition to any

variation of a Republican plan to formally declare Mr. Clinton guilty of wrongdoing, then proceed to his virtually certain acquittal on the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice facing him.

Mr. Daschle and other Democrats said that such a "finding of fact" would be unconstitutional. White House spokesmen have said the same.

Republicans, however, have expressed deep concern that Mr. Clinton will seize on an acquittal vote as exoneration.

Seeking to calm such fears, Joe Lockhart, the president's spokesman, suggested Wednesday that Mr. Clinton would "continue to take responsibility for the inappropriate nature of his behavior. That will last forever."

On Tuesday, prosecutors interviewed Mr. Jordan. While Mr. Jordan reportedly offered no major surprises, he amended his earlier grand jury testimony to indicate that he had worked more closely with Ms. Lewinsky than previously acknowledged, both in helping her find a job and in reviewing a draft affidavit she was to file in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Even Mr. Clinton's political foes now concede that there is no chance the Senate will convict him of the perjury and obstruction of charges he faces, and senators seem loath to do anything that would drag the trial beyond an anticipated conclusion by Feb. 12.

Several senators have now viewed videotapes of Ms. Lewinsky's deposition. While some said they would like to have her appear in the well of the Senate — Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, called her "young, vulnerable and credible" — a number of Republicans and nearly every Democrat said that live testimony seemed pointless.

"I don't think it would be necessary to have Monica Lewinsky appear before the U.S. senate," said Senator Olympia Snowe, a Maine Republican.

Mr. Hatch, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, conceded on NBC, "I doubt there will be the vote to have any live witnesses."

While the lead House prosecutor, Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois, said that live appearances "will be our firm request," there were signs that if the House managers push too hard, it could produce a split among Republicans.

There was interest in showing at least parts of the videotapes to the Senate, however.

As Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, put it, "The public all of a sudden would realize that this is not a sophisticated woman who somehow ensnared the president of the U.S., but a very vulnerable young woman who was exploited by the president of the U.S."

Other senators, from both parties, said the Lewinsky interview showed nothing new.

"When I was watching the tape, also reading the transcript with it," said Senator Tom Harkin, a liberal Democrat from Iowa, "I thought to myself, 'I've been here before.'"

Mr. Daschle said that for the sake of fairness, if the Senate voted to air the videotaped depositions, they should be aired in their entirety.

Mr. Lockhart said the videotaped depositions should remain secret, to avoid creating "a frenzy." Instead, he said, transcripts should be released.

The votes on witnesses and on the videotapes require a simple majority, or 51 of 100 votes.

Mr. Blumenthal, in earlier testimony, quoted Mr. Clinton as saying that he had rebuffed Ms. Lewinsky after she "came at me and made a sexual demand on me."

Prosecutors may have hoped, as a Wall Street Journal editorial put it, to use Mr. Blumenthal's testimony to show "the president at his worst — so eager to obstruct justice that he is willing to ruin a young woman who unwisely loved him."

As part of the obstruction of justice charge, House managers have been trying to show that Mr. Clinton sought to mislead his aides in the expectation that they would provide a similar account to investigators working for the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

Mr. Jordan told reporters only days after Ms.

Lewinsky's name first surfaced in public last year that he had tried to help her find a job, but that he was doing no more for her than he had done for countless other young people. On Tuesday, he reportedly conceded having given the project an unusually high priority. For the first time, he acknowledged that he and Ms. Lewinsky had discussed the affidavit she was preparing to file in the Jones suit, in which Ms. Lewinsky denied having had a sexual relationship with Mr. Clinton, the Los Angeles Times reported.

But Mr. Jordan said that they spoke on the telephone, and that she asked him about some of the phrases she was working on, but he added that he did not ever see the affidavit.

Ms. Collins's plan to issue a "finding of fact" that cites Mr. Clinton's alleged misconduct but does not remove him from office, may be voted on as early as Monday.

An influential Democrat, Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, assailed the "findings of fact" idea in a Washington Post op-ed article. The idea, he said, "lies in the face of what the Framers of the Constitution intended."

Mr. Byrd, a constitutional expert, said that "finding" would skirt the Framers' intention to set the impeachment bar high by requiring a simple majority, not the supermajority of two-thirds of the Senate to convict. He called the idea "a legislative mutant."

Big Judgment Stings On-Line Abortion Foes

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service

PORTLAND, Oregon — In by far the largest judgment ever imposed on militant abortion opponents, a federal jury has ordered creators of Old West-style "wanted" posters and a World Wide Web site that lists the names of abortion providers to pay more than \$107 million to Planned Parenthood and a group of doctors who contended that the material amounted to deadly threats.

The plaintiffs hailed their victory as a major step in their fight to stop the "domestic terrorism" of some abortion foes, whose lists of "baby butchers" on the Web site include the names, home addresses and license-plate numbers of thirty abortion doctors and the names of their spouses and children.

The Web site is called "The Nuremberg Files." When a doctor on a posted list is slain, as three have been, the Web site shows a line drawn through his name.

At least seven people working at abortion clinics across the United States have been killed in recent years, and there have been more than 250 clinic bombings and incidents of arson. In that climate, abortion-rights groups say, the site is intended to stir up more violence.

But the defendants, who noted that nothing in their materials specifically advocated violence against abortion providers, said the decision trampled on the U.S. Constitution's free-speech protections.

They vowed to appeal, and legal experts say the case may well wind up in the Supreme Court as a major test of the line between protected speech and unlawful intimidation.

The case was brought under federal racketeering statutes and the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994. That legislation makes it illegal to use "force or threat of force" against anyone seeking or providing an abortion.

The plaintiffs said they were using the legal tactics of civil rights groups that had won judgments allowing them to seize the assets and shut down the operations of Ku Klux Klan organizations.

But several of the 14 defendants — 12 individuals and organizations grouped as the American Coalition of Life Activists and Advocates for Life Ministries — said they would not pay the judgment awarded Tuesday.

"I could not in good conscience give money to an industry that thrives on killing children," one of the defendants, Catherine Ramey, said outside the federal courthouse. "That would be like asking Martin Luther King to pay money to the Ku Klux Klan."



Catherine Ramey, a defendant, outside the courthouse, where she said she refused to pay damages "to an industry that thrives on killing children."

Holbrooke Reportedly Agrees To Pay Fine for Illegal Contacts

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Richard Holbrooke, President Bill Clinton's choice to be the top American delegate to the United Nations, has agreed to pay \$5,000 to the Justice Department to settle civil charges that he violated federal lobbying laws in his contacts with the American Embassy in Seoul, according to government officials and friends of Mr. Holbrooke.

Officials said the settlement did not require an admission of wrongdoing by Mr. Holbrooke and should allow his nomination for the UN post to be submitted this month to the Senate for confirmation.

The terms of the settlement, which was reached between Mr. Holbrooke and the Justice Department, are expected to be announced after a final review by senior officials at the department, including Attorney General Janet Reno.

The Justice Department had accused Mr. Holbrooke of violating federal lobbying laws when, shortly after resigning from the State Department in 1996, he contacted the embassy in Seoul for help in setting up an appointment with the president of South Korea and other Korean officials. He was in Seoul in his new job as vice chairman of the investment banking firm of Credit Suisse First Boston.

Federal ethics laws bar officials leaving the government from a variety of contacts with former colleagues.

The nomination still has to be reviewed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its often unpredictable chairman, Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina. Mr. Helms has promised that he will scrutinize the in-

vestigation to determine whether prosecutors treated Mr. Holbrooke leniently.

Mr. Holbrooke, whose nomination has been stalled for eight months as a result of the joint ethics investigation by the Justice and State Departments, has denied wrongdoing in his contacts with the embassy in Seoul and Ambassador James Laney.

UN Research Yields HIV Protection for Babies

By Lawrence K. Altman
New York Times Service

CHICAGO — Scientists working for the United Nations have found that a simple, relatively inexpensive drug treatment can significantly reduce mother-to-infant transmission of the AIDS virus.

The results are not as good as those from the standard treatment in Western countries, where prospective mothers infected with the virus receive the drug AZT starting about the 26th week of pregnancy and their babies get it during their first six weeks of life.

But that drug therapy, which can cost \$1,000 or more, is far too expensive and complicated for the poor countries of the world where HIV, the AIDS virus, is spreading fastest.

The new strategy, which requires taking twice a day one pill that combines two drugs, significantly abbreviates the treatment period. It works about as well whether the women start taking the pills about three weeks before delivery or at the onset of labor, which in many poor

countries is the first time expectant mothers seek medical assistance.

In either case, the mother and baby take the drugs for only a week after birth. Unlike treatment in developed countries, where mothers typically receive an intravenous infusion of anti-AIDS drugs during labor, the treatment described Monday does not require injections, which may be unsafe in developing countries.

Each pill contains two standard anti-HIV drugs: AZT, or zidovudine, and 3TC, or lamivudine. The women take one pill in the morning and the other in the evening.

Dr. Joseph Saba, a UN official in the AIDS program who reported the findings at a science conference here, expressed hope that the strategy would sharply reduce the number of babies born infected.



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Away From Politics

The U.S. Postal Service had a \$350 million surplus in the fiscal year that ended last September, its fourth straight profitable year. The agency's annual report said it handled 498 billion pieces of mail in the year, or approximately 376,712 items a minute — 41 percent of the world's mail, the post office said. (AP)

The Seattle Times, long a flourishing afternoon newspaper, will become a morning paper and compete head-to-head against the rival Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The change will take place within two years as part of a restructured joint operating agreement between the Seattle Times Co. and the Hearst Corp., which owns the Post-Intelligencer. (AP)

Only about half of all people infected with the AIDS virus in the United States are getting treatment, researchers at the RAND Corporation told reporters at an international AIDS conference in Chicago. (Reuters)

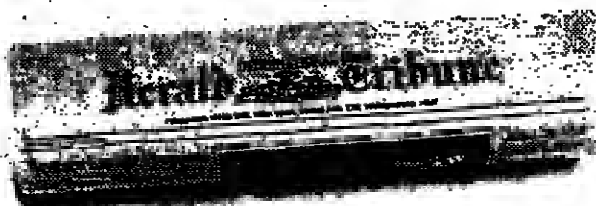
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL

CEO of an \$11 Billion-a-Year Enterprise: Counterterrorism

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Richard Clarke is the White House terrorism czar. His stock in trade is the stuff of techno-thrillers: biological bombs in the Wall Street subway, chemical clouds of death in the Pentagon parking lot, cyberwar attacks crippling the nation's computers.

Pale as skim milk, his once-red hair gone white at 48, he works long days and nights in Oliver North's old office at the National Security Council, keeping a profile so low that almost no one outside his top-secret world knows he exists.

As chairman of the government's chief counterterrorism group for the last seven years, he has become what John le Carré calls an "intellect" — a gray baron who seems to command nothing more than his desk, yet waves a wand and sends soldiers, guns, money and spies around the world.

Mr. Clarke inspires ferocious loyalty from friends and fierce enmity from foes inside the government. He wins praise for getting things done in secret — and criticism for exactly the same. At the National Security Council, where he landed in 1992 after losing his State Department

job in a bitter battle over Israel's misuse of American military technology, he can operate without outside oversight so long as he has President Bill Clinton's confidence.

He has it. The president recently named him the nation's counterterrorism coordinator, a new and powerful post. He has to try to coordinate everything from the Pentagon and its evolving plans to defend the United States against terrorists down to local police and fire departments. Despite years of effort to pull it all together, this has never been accomplished.

The mission of protecting Americans from attack, whether by states or rogue groups, is "almost the primary responsibility of the government," Mr. Clarke says.

He is trying to raise the fear of terrorism in the United States to the right level — higher, not too high — as he girds the nation for the possibility of an assault from nerve gas, bacteria and viruses, and for what he calls "an electronic Pearl Harbor."

He has to walk a fine line. "You want people to understand the peril without panicking," said Anthony Lake, his boss at the National Security Council from 1993 to 1996.

Mr. Clarke has a reserved seat when cabinet officers gather at the White House on national

security issues. "My name is on the table next to Madeleine Albright and Bill Cohen," the secretary of state and defense, Mr. Clarke said. His vote carries the weight of those cast by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of central intelligence.

He helped drive the decision to fire cruise missiles at Afghanistan and Sudan in August, trying to strike at Osama bin Laden, overpowering dissenters at the State Department and the CIA. Now he is helping to steer secret operations aimed at capturing the Saudi exile, who is accused of bombing two U.S. embassies.

Mr. Clarke has also written at least four classified presidential directives on terrorism. They helped expand the government's counterterrorism cadres into the \$11 billion-a-year enterprise he now coordinates, stifling some protests at the Justice Department and the Pentagon, which saw him as a competitor for money and power.

In his office, where a small sign reads "Think Globally/Act Locally," he spoke passionately about the threat of cyberwar, invisible attacks on U.S. computers, a terror so insidious, so arcane he has trouble convincing corporate chiefs and political commissars it is real. But it is out there, somewhere, he says, even if he cannot prove it.

"There is a problem convincing people that there is a threat," he said. "There is disbelief and resistance. Most people don't understand. CEOs of big corporations don't even know what I'm talking about. They think I'm talking about a 14-year-old hacking into their Web sites."

"I'm talking about people shutting down a city's electricity," he added, "shutting down 911 systems, shutting down telephone networks and transportation systems. You black out a city, people die. Black out lots of cities, lots of people die. It's as bad as being attacked by bombs."

"An attack on American cyberspace is an attack on the United States, just as much as a landing on New Jersey," he said. "The notion that we could respond with military force against a cyber-attack has to be accepted."

Why would anyone want to mount such an attack? "To extort us," he said. "To intimidate us. To get us to abandon our foreign policy — 'Abandon Israel or else!'"

"Imagine a few years from now: A president goes forth and orders troops to move. The lights go out, the phones don't ring, the trains don't move. That's what we mean by an electronic Pearl Harbor."

Enemies and allies alike say Mr. Clarke wins



Richard Clarke, the coordinator of U.S. government efforts to prevent terrorism.

battles by working longer hours and twisting more arms. "I like Dick so much for the same reason that some people have not liked him: He has a passion for getting things done," said Mr. Lake. "That can be abrasive."

Arabs in Gulf Wary of Bid to Oust Saddam

Reuters

DUBAI — A U.S. campaign to overthrow President Saddam Hussein in Iraq has encountered opposition in neighboring Gulf nations, analysts said here Wednesday.

Arab leaders are skeptical about the plan, the analysts said, which some of the leaders fear would be a dangerous precedent and pose hazards to the entire region.

A senior U.S. diplomatic official who toured five nations seeking support for a \$97 million campaign aimed at overthrowing the Iraqi leader said there was "a consensus about the continuing danger that Saddam Hussein poses to Iraq's neighbors and to its people."

Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk also noted after his talks with leaders of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates they argued strongly that change needed to come from within Iraq.

"We agree with that," he added.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates, expressed strong reservations, the official news agency said. The defense minister feared that any political change in Iraq imposed from outside could lead to rifts and civil war, the agency said.

In Oman, a government statement said Sultan Qaboos bin Said stressed to Mr. Indyk the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The statement also spoke of continuous efforts to help ease economic sanctions against Iraq to alleviate the suffering of ordinary people — a common theme in Gulf nations sensitive to TV images of distress caused by shortages.

Qatar, too, had reservations about the U.S. plan. "It is an internal matter for Iraq," a senior Foreign Ministry official said. "We would prefer this matter should be left to the Iraqi people to decide whether they want a change or not or whom they want as their leader. Any outside interference will not be in the best interest of anybody."



Despite years of war, threats of more war, UN sanctions and strong government controls over the economy, Iraqi investors gather three days a week at the Baghdad bourse to watch the big board and look for deals.

IRAQ: U.S. Widens Its Target List as Jets Face Growing Challenge

Continued from Page 1

offered a bounty equal to about \$14,000 to any Iraqi who shoots down an American or British jet. Iraq offered a smaller bounty for capturing a pilot.

The U.S. defense secretary, William Cohen, scoffed at the gesture, saying it was "just another example of Saddam Hussein flailing out."

Last week, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, disclosed that Mr. Clinton had given American pilots wider authority to retaliate when threatened, allowing them to strike at any Iraqi military defense system, not just those that actually targeted the aircraft.

In the Tuesday strike, four jets from the carrier Carl Vinson — two F-14s and two F/A-18s — attacked an anti-shiping missile site on Fao Peninsula south of Basra, even though there were no indications Iraqis there were preparing to fire.

Officials at the Pentagon said Iraq had readied the missile in the last week. It was described as a Soviet-made CSSC-3 capable of hitting a ship up to 60 miles

(100 kilometers) away.

"They put them on launchers and put the launchers in a position to fire into the Persian Gulf," said an official.

According to the Pentagon, the Carl Vinson's jets attacked the site with four precision-guided bombs. One official said the bombs appeared to strike their target because they were followed by secondary blasts, presumably from munitions.

During the raids in December, U.S. and British forces attacked 100 targets in all. The commander who directed that attack, General Anthony Zinni, reported that the missile strikes had destroyed the vast majority of their targets. The jets had less luck with the 34 air-defense targets they attacked, destroying half.

Since then, the U.S. strikes had been limited to missile batteries, radar facilities and other parts of Iraq's air defenses. The officials said they would not rule out striking other facilities, but for now they do not plan a broader air campaign.

Administration and Pentagon officials said they were content to continue

retaliating as long as Iraq continued to challenge the American and British patrols. Appearing before the House's Armed Services Committee, Mr. Cohen said that each time Iraqi forces threatened the pilots, "They're going to pay a penalty for it."

In the last few days, Iraq has withdrawn some of its surface-to-air missiles — including Soviet-made SA-2s and SA-3s — from the no-fly zones in what officials described as an apparent attempt by the Iraqi military to protect its most potent weaponry from attacks.

In recent weeks, the United States has moved more aircraft into the region, including more F-16s and EA-6Bs armed with radar-seeking missiles. There are now roughly 200 American aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone from the Carl Vinson and from bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and another 40 or so are patrolling the northern zone from Incirlik, Turkey.

Britain has roughly two dozen jets patrolling the two zones.

So far, neither the United States nor Britain has lost any pilots or aircraft. Their tactics are designed, in part, to limit that possibility, by attacking with long-range missiles and steering clear of attempts by Iraqis to lure jets into what U.S. officials call missile "traps."

There are military and political risks in this newly aggressive strategy. Last week, at least one American missile missed its target and struck a residential area in southern Iraq, the Pentagon acknowledged. Iraq said 11 civilians were killed.

Turkey, one of the closest U.S. allies in the region, has signaled some uneasiness over the continuing strikes. Defense Minister Hikmet Sami Turk said in an interview Tuesday that his country wanted to renegotiate the rules of engagement for jets operating out of its territory, though he did not specify what changes were being considered.

■ **Last Americans Ordered Out**

The UN ordered the last remaining Americans working for the United Nations to leave Iraq because the Iraqi government says it cannot guarantee their safety, officials said Wednesday.

A UN spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said the order only involved two Americans because all other Americans and all Britons working for the UN have already left the country.

JAPAN: Job Losses Tear Into Self-Image

Continued from Page 1

his privacy and seeking to capitalize on his woes. Job-seekers at another branch merely turned their faces away the instant they saw a camera.

"Japanese people are ashamed to be unemployed," said Masahide Naito, who is in charge of helping those over age 45 at the Iidabashi branch of Hello Work. "It's an embarrassment, something that you hide."

The Japanese employment system, heavy on lifetime loyalty guaranteed by seniority-based pay, has been crumbling since 1993, when many corporate titans started campaigns to trim their work forces.

But that erosion moved at the pace of molasses compared with what happened last year, when the unemployment rate jumped an alarming seven-tenths of a percentage point to an average 4.1 percent. The rate was 4.3 percent in December, one-tenth of a point down from the record high in November. Compounding the problem, companies struggling to avoid layoffs cut wages, which fell at an annual rate of 6.8 percent in December, the worst decline on record.

These statistics have rocked the psyche of a nation that has previously regarded itself as blessedly immune from the economic afflictions suffered by other developed countries.

"I had been bearing about such things on television, but now I'm bearing these stories directly from my classmates, and I'm hearing not just from one but from many," said Hisako Aoyama, one of three women in a class of 28 studying janitorial services at the Tokyo Metropolitan Shinagawa Technical College, a vocational school financed by the city government.

It is a deeply unsettling experience for most Japanese, particularly the men over 45 who are being forced en masse out of companies they joined as college graduates. Their high salaries and looming lump-sum retirement payments provide an obvious target for corporate cost-cutters.

"At 51, I'm at a time of change in my life," said Shigeru Kikuya, a classmate of Mrs. Aoyama, who lost his job as a procurement officer in a factory last March. "The only thing I can do is persevere and hope I can turn my life around."

But the prospects of landing a job for most men his age are slim at best, according to officials at Hello Work.

After Mr. Akimoto, the former Shoshiba manager, finally told his wife of his plight, she urged him to seek help from the Tokyo Managers' Union, a group set up four years ago to represent middle managers who are not union members.

A lifetime employee of Shoshiba whose salary had increased in lockstep with his seniority, Mr. Akimoto had expected to work at the company until he retired at age 60. But with Nissan fighting for its life, Mr. Akimoto's company could no longer afford to keep him on.

"I am angry," he said. "But I don't know where to direct my anger. The company did try to help me find another job at least."

The only jobs he has found so far are as a driver or as the man who waves a light baton at construction sites to direct traffic. He would earn less than 200,000 yen a month after tax, or about \$1,770 at current exchange rates. That is less than the unemployment benefits he receives, but those will run out in late March unless he enrolls in a job training course.

"Right now, rather than immediately taking a job as a driver, I would like to

continue to look for a while," Mr. Akimoto said. "But there is no question that my income will be less than half what I was earning."

Fearful of the social costs that may accompany frustration of the sort Mr. Akimoto is experiencing, the government goes to great lengths to try to keep unemployment figures from rising, providing generous public subsidies to companies to keep workers on their payrolls.

"There is so-called invisible unemployment in corporations today that may become visible in the future, in which case the rate will become much higher than it is now," warned Akira Amari, the labor minister, at a recent press gathering.

Mr. Amari refused to make any estimates of what the real level would be.

"These kinds of figures can drive up the insecurity of the Japanese consumer, so, excuse me, I cannot say what the figures are," he said. "It's my corporate secret."

Although the government has spent upward of \$800 billion to stimulate economic activity, the unemployment rate has climbed steadily.

"Just after the measures are implemented, the number of jobs that comes open increases a little," said Kazuki Mishima, an official at the Iidabashi Hello Work office. "But the effect doesn't last long, the measures don't really have that much impact."

BRIEFLY

7 Girls in Algeria Are Reported Freed

ALGIERS — Security forces killed 40 armed Muslim extremists and arrested five and freed seven kidnapped girls in a 10-day sweep in eastern Algeria, the daily El Aci reported Wednesday.

The helicopter-supported army operation, backed by police and village self-defense groups, also resulted in the seizure of 17 home-made mortars and the destruction of several arms caches, the newspaper said. The security forces suffered no casualties, it added. (APF)

Foes Reported to Sign Guinea-Bissau Pact

DAKAR, Senegal — Leaders of the warring sides in Guinea-Bissau signed a cease-fire accord Wednesday, paving the way for hundreds of regional intervention troops to deploy in the small west African state, sources there said.

The rebels' leader, the sacked army chief General Ansumane Mane, and the head of state, President Joao Bernardo Vieira, signed the accord presented by a visiting ministerial delegation from Togo, the sources said. (APF)

Hard-Liner Seeks Mexico Presidency

MEXICO CITY — Manuel Bartlett Diaz, one of Mexico's most controversial politicians and a leading hard-liner in the governing party, has started a campaign to win the party's presidential nomination for the election next year.

Until now, the party's unwritten rules allowed the sitting president to pick his successor, a practice that President Ernesto Zedillo has promised to scrap. Mr. Bartlett was governor of Puebla state until his term ended Monday. (Reuters)

Clinton Will Meet 2 Latin Presidents

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will meet Friday with Presidents Alberto Fujimori of Peru and Jamil Mahuad of Ecuador to support a peace agreement the two nations signed in October.

The two presidents will be in Washington seeking global aid for a 10-year development plan for their Andean border, which was most recently the scene of fighting in 1995. (Reuters)

For the Record

Yasser Arafat affirmed Wednesday his intention of carrying out the stalled West Bank peace accords with Israel. The Palestinian leader spoke after talks in Washington with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. (AP)

SEEDS: Gene Owner Accuses Farmers of Piracy in Landmark Case

Continued from Page 1

produce food with enhanced nutritional value, providing a potential boon for the world's malnourished people.

"This is part of the agricultural revolution, and any revolution is painful," said Karen Marshall, a spokeswoman for Monsanto in St. Louis, Missouri. "But the technology is good technology."

A visit to Monsanto's 210-acre (85-hectare) biotechnology complex, 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of St. Louis, offers ample evidence of how difficult and expensive it is to develop new and useful varieties of gene-altered seeds.

It is the largest biotechnology research center in the world, with 250 separate laboratories, 100 room-sized plant growth chambers whose climates can be controlled from researchers' home computers if necessary, and two acres of greenhouses arrayed on the main building's enormous rooftop.

It was here that company scientists took a gene from a bacterium that produces an insect-killing toxin called "Bt" and transferred it to corn, cotton

and other crops to make plants that exude their own insecticide. Here, too, researchers gave crops a gene that allows them to survive Monsanto's, flagship weed killer, Roundup, which normally would kill them.

Monsanto estimates that it takes 10 years and about \$300 million to create commercial products such as these. For every new kind of engineered seed that makes it to field trials, 10,000 have failed in the development pipeline, officials say. To recover this huge investment, the company has opted not to sell its engineered seeds in the traditional sense but to lease them, in effect, for one-time use only — and to go after anyone who breaks the rules.

It wasn't always this way. Until about a decade ago, crop and seed development in the United States and abroad was mostly a government business.

In the United States, the Agriculture Department, in conjunction with land grant colleges and local agricultural extension agents, developed, tested and distributed new varieties of seeds. Under that system, patents were infrequently

pursued and rarely enforced. And seed saving and trading were commonplace. That began to change in the 1980s when Congress adopted legislation that encouraged federal agencies to cooperate more closely with the private sector, in agriculture, that meant private seed companies could profit handsomely by selling seeds that were developed in large part with taxpayer dollars.

Today, a handful of American and European agricultural companies control a major portion of the world's certified food seed supply. Monsanto is the king of them all.

This year, about half of the 72-million-acre U.S. soybean harvest is expected to be genetically engineered to tolerate Monsanto's Roundup. More than half of the 13 million acres of U.S. cotton will be engineered as well, as will be about 25 percent of the nation's 80 million acres of corn, either for Roundup resistance or to exude Bt.

"Farmers are going bonkers for these crops," said William Kosinski, a Monsanto biotechnology educator. "They've been very well received."

Short Takes

As historians learn more about the history of slavery, the new knowledge is being incorporated in museums, exhibits and tourist attractions to form a more complete picture.

At Monticello, the Virginia home of President Thomas Jefferson, recent evidence that Jefferson fathered at least one son by a slave, Sally Hemmings, is attracting an increasing number of black visitors. The role of slaves there is being described more fully. "There were six white people on the plantation and 200 African slaves," said James Horton, a member of the Monticello advisory board. "You can't tell me those six whites affected the hundreds of slaves and weren't affected themselves by the slaves."

In recent years, officials at Colonial Williamsburg, in Virginia, have hired actors to reenact slave auctions, complete with black families being split and sold at market.

For Boston city employees who feel blue, help is a phone call away. The city has installed a "mood meter," an automated phone system that screens for depression. Callers listen to recorded descriptions of how they feel ("I get tired for no reason") and are asked how often they feel that way. Callers punch the corresponding digits, then hear a recorded diagnosis that urges severe cases to get counseling.

What is not clear is how this helps with the stress that can come

from dealing with telephone recordings.

In Aberdeen, South Dakota, a would-be robber was foiled by his own cologne. Jerold Nissen of Aberdeen wore a Halloween mask as he entered the town's casino Nov. 4 with a loaded gun. When he announced the robbery, a casino clerk recognized his cologne ("Vegas Nights") as that of a regular patron and addressed Mr. Nissen by name. His joke, she told him, was not funny.

So he put the gun away, took off his mask and sat down to play at a lottery machine. There it would have ended had casino officials not noticed the next day that the phone lines had been cut. A search of Mr. Nissen's truck turned up the mask, a gun and wire clippers.

Mr. Nissen has been sentenced to seven years in prison.

The surest sign that women have arrived as power brokers in the Washington state Senate, some say with a chuckle, came when they took over the biggest bathroom off the Senate chamber. If bathroom control is the barometer of power, bathrooms in some other states could be changing hands.

The Washington women's power play was made possible by their 2-to-1 majority in the Democratic caucus. Overall, Washington state has the country's highest percentage of female legislators — 41 percent, with 60 of 147 seats.

Brian Knowlton

AMERICAN TOPICS

Women Sing Out for More Men on the Campus

At the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a campus where 6 of every 10 students are female, a singing group has had to advertise for male voices, posting signs that declare, "Real Men Sing Loud!"

In colleges across the country, a dearth of male students is becoming ever more apparent. This year, women are expected to earn 57 percent of all bachelor's degrees, up from 43 percent in 1970 and 24 percent in 1950. By 2008, the government projects, women will outnumber men in undergraduate and graduate programs by 9.2 million to 6.9 million, according to U.S. News & World Report. What is behind the trend?

A booming economy, to begin with. Male high-school graduates, much more than females, have been succumbing to \$30,000 starting salaries in fields like air-conditioner maintenance and Internet Web design. Meanwhile, females may reach their senior year of high school with better grades and a clearer sense of the future.

JPL 201520

EUROPE

Russia Urges U.S. to Help Fix Computers for 2000

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Russia conceded Wednesday that it needed up to \$3 billion to correct the Year 2000 computer glitch — six times its original estimate — and it appealed to the United States to help fix Russian computers controlling nuclear weapons.

Overwhelmed with obligations to pensioners and foreign creditors, Russia's government has long played down the cost and urgency of confronting the so-called millennium bug, which could destabilize computer systems that control its nuclear arsenal, the world's second largest.

The cost is staggering in a country so short of money that its draft budget for this year foresees just \$21 billion in government revenues.

On Tuesday, the United States warned that Europe could face a natural gas shortage if its largest supplier, the Russia giant enterprise Gazprom, failed to eliminate the computer millennium bug in its system.

George Tenet, the director of Central Intelligence, in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, warned that the Y2K bug could interrupt energy flows "in certain countries."

He cited Europe as a potential victim of the millennium bug because it receives "more than one-third" of its natural gas from Russia.

Last year, officials estimated Russia would need \$500 million to make certain that older computers did not interpret the "00" appearing at midnight next Dec. 31 as 1900 rather than the new millennium of 2000.

But the old sum was announced before a thorough review of the problem, said Alexander Krupnov, chairman of the Central Telecommunications Commission.

After the first extensive study of government agencies facing potential computer failures — those that control military facilities, oil pipelines and airports — Mr. Krupnov raised the estimate to \$2 billion or \$3 billion.

And with just 330 days to go before the changeover, Mr. Krupnov said each agency was responsible for finding funds to solve the problem. "Now they're seeking their own sources of financing," he said.

He made no suggestions where the cash might come from, but he did appeal to NATO and the U.S. Defense Department to consult with Moscow on the problem.

In his testimony Tuesday, Mr. Tenet made these other points:

• "There is no doubt that China has the potential to affect our security posture in Asia, but the extent to which its ambitions and growing capabilities represent a challenge or threat to U.S. interests is still an open question."

• "China is increasing the size and survivability of its retaliatory nuclear missile force, even though it is unlikely to make the resource commitment needed to approach the force levels of either the United States or Russia."

• "China is also developing and ac-

quiring air and naval systems intended to deter the United States from involvement in a Taiwan Strait crisis and to extend China's fighting capability beyond its coastline."

• "In nearly all respects, the situation here has become more volatile and unpredictable."

• "Fresh signs of social decay have increased our concern about stability in North Korea. Crime and indiscipline are commonplace even in the military and security services."

• "North Korea remains a serious military threat, despite dire economic conditions... Pyongyang continues to devote considerable resources to its main-line military, which can still initiate a full-scale war on the peninsula and inflict massive damage on South Korea and the 37,000 American troops deployed there."

• "India and Pakistan continue to have fragile governments committed to potentially destabilizing nuclear and missile programs. Both India and



George Tenet, director of central intelligence, sees Year 2000 risks.

Pakistan continue to resist curbing programs to escape economic sanctions. Further tests are a distinct possibility and testing of advanced new missiles seems a certainty. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

France Seeks Changes in EU's Plan to Add Members

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — France threatened the European Union's enlargement plan Wednesday by demanding changes in the Amsterdam Treaty that provides the basis for adding as many as 10 countries in Eastern and Central Europe plus Cyprus.

A French spokesman said the government would insist on a supplementary clause and insist on reforms in the EU's institutional structure before completing the enlargement process.

The French shift followed German warnings that no date could be set for enlargement until the EU achieved a radical reform of its budget, to which Germany is a large net contributor.

The budget reform, which also requires sweeping changes in the EU's agricultural and structural funding policies, will be the subject of summit meetings in Bonn this month, Berlin next month and Cologne in June.

A joint parliamentary assembly in Versailles last month amended the French Constitution to allow the government to cede sovereignty to the EU under the Amsterdam Treaty, including placing immigration policy in the hands of the Union. The French National Assembly and Senate are scheduled to take up the Amsterdam text next month.

Of the EU's 15 members, only France, Belgium, Greece and Portugal have not yet ratified the treaty, which requires unanimity.

The spokesman said the French government would call for specific changes in the composition of the European Commission, the EU's executive body, and a different weighting of votes in the European Council representing member governments.

The treaty "does not take account of the wish by the government and many deputies to affirm the need for an institutional reform in the EU before its planned enlargement," the spokesman said.

Any changes to the treaty would require the assent of all member countries and could mean its resubmission to the parliaments of countries that already have ratified it. The spokesman said France's position was not isolated: Italy and Belgium also have called for institutional changes before the EU could expand, he said.

France's position reflects the widely held view in the EU that institutions that were created for six original members in the 1950s are ill-suited to a union of as many as 26 countries.

The EU has begun enlargement negotiations with Poland, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Cyprus. Five other countries — Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania and Latvia — are awaiting membership at a later stage.

The Amsterdam Treaty links the enlargement process to the need for reform of EU institutions, but the French government says the wording is vague and insufficient.

To accommodate the new members, the treaty requires countries that have two representatives on the 20-member European Commission to give one up.

For Kosovo, U.S. Considers 'Relatively Small' Force

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Cohen told Congress on Wednesday that the administration might commit a "relatively small" U.S. ground force to Kosovo, but only if a firm peace agreement is reached between warring factions.

Other NATO members should make up the majority of such a force, he said.

Pressed by senators on the likely size of the U.S. contingent, General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested that a maximum of 2,000 to 4,000 U.S. troops might be required if NATO decided on an overall force of 20,000.

But he told the Senate Armed Services Committee, those numbers were hypothetical.

"The numbers are still being worked," he said. "The numbers that we would be asked to give would depend on what the final numbers are."

Still, General Shelton told the panel he had "no doubt" that the United States would be asked to contribute such a force.

Ethnic Albanian rebels in Kosovo have agreed to participate in peace talks demanded by the United States and its NATO allies as pressure increased on the hard-line government in Belgrade to join the talks. NATO has threatened air strikes if Serbia and the rebels are not negotiating by Saturday and closing a peace deal by Feb. 19 under talks organized by the United States and five European powers.

"There would have to be a real agreement, not something that is illusory, not something that has the appearance of being an agreement, but would allow our people — should we have people on the ground — to be caught in the cross-fire between the warring and ethnic factions," Mr. Cohen testified.

His testimony came a day after George Tenet, the director of central intelligence, told the same panel that NATO troops would be needed to prevent wider warfare between rival factions in Kosovo even if a peace agreement was reached.

"I cannot and would not support any notion of NATO trying to make an intrusive invasion into Kosovo to establish a peace or to make a peace," Mr. Cohen said. "That would be unwise in my judgment."

Mr. Cohen told the panel that he could support sending U.S. troops to Kosovo only if an agreement providing for a cease-fire of from three to five years was put in place.

He promised to consult with Congress before committing U.S. troops. "We can't really size the force until we've got an agreement," he said. "We're not there yet."

Mr. Cohen added that the Pentagon was coming to Congress to discuss the issue while it was still in the planning stage. "That's the reason why we're starting this process now," he said.

West Steps Up the Pressure
Western powers stepped up diplomatic and military pressure on Yugoslavia on Wednesday to attend the peace talks in France, Reuters reported from Pristina, Serbia.

Separatist guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army said Tuesday that they would attend. But President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia has held back. The Serbian Parliament is expected to vote Thursday on whether to send delegates to Paris.

The European Union's envoy to Kosovo, Wolfgang Petritsch, urged the Yugoslav and Serbian governments in Belgrade to come to the talks, which have been called by the six-nation Contact Group of major powers that handles Balkan diplomacy.

The U.S. envoy Chris Hill was also due in Belgrade and was expected to meet late Wednesday with President Milan Milutinovic of Serbia, another diplomat said.



RUSSIAN ON TRIAL — Flanked by his lawyers, Alexander Nikitin, center, a former captain in the Russian Navy, at a news conference Wednesday in Moscow. He is accused of giving information to a Norwegian environmental group about safety problems of Russian nuclear submarines in the Arctic.

GERMANY: Far Right Sees an Opening in Debate on Citizenship

Continued from Page 1

chairman of the Christian Democrats, Wolfgang Schäuble, and Edmund Stoiber, the chairman of its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, Mr. Schäuble noted "with satisfaction" that their petition embraced Republican positions on "foreign policy."

Mr. Schäuble invited the Christian Democrats to a "common front" on immigration issues as a "logical consequence of the petition drive."

A spokesman for the Christian Democrats in Bonn rejected the appeal.

But the letter from Mr. Schäuble is only the most recent showing of the far-right in the affair. Riding on Christian Democratic coattails, the Republicans launched their own petition drives, often placing their stands near those of the Christian Democrats.

Ignoring the furor, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder vows to press ahead with an overhaul of the 1913 nationality laws. Under pressure from the Greens, Mr. Schröder's cabinet drafted plans that would let as many as half of the 7.3 million long-term residents who are not citizens become Germans. A large portion of those are the 2.1 million resident Turks, many of whom arrived decades ago as "guest workers."

Current laws make ancestry the main determinant of who is German. Germans living abroad get full rights, while children born in Germany to foreigners are denied them, even if they have never lived anywhere else. The new law would lower the barriers to those without German bloodlines, cutting bureaucracy and shortening the minimum time of residence to eight from 15 years before a foreigner could apply for citizenship.

Mr. Schröder attacked the conservatives for whipping up fears. "This debate is incredible," he said. "Anyone who wants German citizenship will have to swear an oath to the constitution. Criminals will not be naturalized."

The most explosive feature of the

plan allows foreigners to become Germans without renouncing prior nationality. In effect, for the first time, newly naturalized Germans could hold two passports.

Conservatives argue that this would split allegiances and hinder integration by leaving millions of new Germans with divided loyalties. "It is not a real decision if they can keep their old passport; it is a half decision," one Christian Democratic leader said.

Mr. Schäuble says dual citizenship will spark resentment of those who hold it.

Mr. Stoiber, who is pushing for a referendum on dual citizenship, said the reform could invite the Turkish-Kurdish conflict to German soil by attracting more foreigners. He estimated that the danger to German security would be greater than that posed by the leftist terrorists in the 1970s and '80s.

The issue divides Germans along generational lines more than by party affiliation, said Tom Koenigs, leader of the Greens in the state of Hessen and a supporter of dual citizenship.

"It is incomprehensible to younger Germans to think that someone has divided loyalties," he said. "Germans today have only a weak attachment to the notion of a nation. Schäuble is going back to German national roots of the '20s and '30s."

The Christian Democrats are unwilling to say how many signatures they have collected or how many they think they need to weaken Mr. Schröder.

But already there are signs that the tactic could backfire. A better reading of the public mood could come Sunday during state elections in Hessen, where dual citizenship has become a burning issue. If the conservatives lose, as nearly all polls suggest, Mr. Schäuble is bound to lose authority in his own party.

But a spokesman insisted that the petition drive would continue in any case.

Peter Struck, Mr. Schröder's parliamentary leader, said that would only play into the hands of the far-right parties. "They are going to have to ask themselves if they know what sort of spirits they are awakening," he said.

ITALY: EU Says It Should Revise 'Over-Optimistic' Budget Plan

Continued from Page 1

lower-than-expected growth in 1998 and 1999, Italy risked missing its projected targets for public deficit spending, which should not exceed 3 percent of gross domestic product under the criteria laid down by the Maastricht treaty.

Growth in Italy has slowed because of the expansion of a government program to encourage car purchases and as the economic crises in Russia, Asia and Latin America have hurt Italian exports.

At the same time, the commission said it would step up its investigation into Italy's plans to inject 120 million euros (\$136.1 million) worth of state aid into the auto manufacturer Fiat SPA.

The director general of the Italian Treasury, Mario Draghi, told the EU's Economic and Financial Committee on Wednesday that the scenario to be presented next week would assume lower growth and interest rates and would forecast a public deficit of no more than 2 percent this year, declining to 1 percent in 2001.

To hit the 2 percent target this year amid prospects of weaker economic growth in 1999 may mean that Italy would "have to take corrective measures," said Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU commissioner for monetary policy.

The commission concluded that the macroeconomic assumptions on which

Italian forecasts were based "now seem over-optimistic." It questioned forecasts of economic growth of 2.5 percent in 1999 and 3 percent in the following two years. It said it considered "a scenario of economic recovery is plausible, but that growth is likely to be more gradual than assumed."

The criteria for belonging to the currency union state that countries should not have a debt-to-GDP ratio higher than 60 percent, but an exception was made for countries that, while exceeding this target, were moving toward it.

All EU members, whether or not they have adopted the euro, are required to submit their three-year budget plans to the commission.

BRIEFLY

Poland's Appeal: End Roadblocks

WARSAW — The government appealed to striking farmers Wednesday to dismantle roadblocks as talks over ways to improve the farmers' plight stalled.

Negotiating for the government, Labor Minister Leszek Miller asked that farmers remove the blockades as a condition for resuming talks that began Tuesday but were called off that evening.

Warsaw had hoped that by opening talks it could persuade farmers to lift the blockades, but the police reported 20 barriers on major roads and about 60 on local ones. But traffic generally was moving well, with detours having been organized. The protest began Jan. 25 after calls for higher produce prices and for farm debts to be erased. (AP)

Cyprus to Press For Peacekeepers

BRUSSELS — The government of Cyprus will launch a diplomatic drive for an international force to be deployed on the divided island, Foreign Minister Yiannakis Cassoulides said here Wednesday.

He said the deployment of such a force, possibly organized by NATO, would allow the island to be demilitarized and could take place "even before we have found a political settlement."

Mr. Cassoulides said the proposed peacekeeping force would require a UN Security Council mandate and could only go ahead with the agreement of Turkey, which has occupied northern Cyprus since 1974.

Once the force was deployed, both Turkey, which has an estimated 35,000 soldiers stationed in the north, and Greece, which has a smaller contingent in the south, would be expected to withdraw their troops, he said. (AFP)

French Ex-Minister Accused in Death

PARIS — A week before three former ministers go on trial for their roles in an AIDS-tainted blood scandal, the parents of a young woman who died of the disease have filed a complaint against a fourth former official, judicial sources said Wednesday.

The complaint, also brought by an association representing victims of tainted blood transfusions, charges a former health minister, Claude Evvin, with not assisting a person in danger, concealing crimes and hindering the judicial process, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

Those set to stand trial for involuntary homicide are a former prime minister, Laurent Fabius; a former health minister, Edmond Herve; and a former social affairs minister, Georgina Dufour. (AP)

TIMOR: Second Thoughts About Offer

Continued from Page 1

Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia said a referendum was "a recipe for civil conflict," adding that there was already "fighting between pro- and anti-independence factions, and we don't want to be snuck with this problem for another couple of years."

In its announcement last week, the government said that if its proposal of autonomy for East Timor was rejected, it would be prepared to give independence instead.

Following a well-publicized meeting with Mr. Alatas in Jakarta on Wednesday, Abilio Araújo, a former leader of the East Timorese independence movement, Freitas, backed Indonesia's autonomy plan for his homeland, saying it needed Indonesia.

"I agree with the notion that Indonesia doesn't need East Timor, but East Timor needs Indonesia," he said after a meeting in Jakarta with Mr. Alatas.

But Johnson Panjaitan, a lawyer for a jailed East Timorese independence leader, Xanana Gusmano, said that the biggest problem in East Timor was the arming of about 20,000 civilians by the military.

"If we want peace in the province, the military must disarm these civilian militias," he said. "The distribution of

weapons must be stopped." The armed forces commander, General Wiranto, denied Tuesday that the military was arming groups in East Timor. But he acknowledged that the military had set up a paid militia force there to help it maintain security.

He added that it was impossible for the militia to abuse its power and terrorize people because its activities were supervised by the local military and closely watched by local religious and social leaders.

But aid workers said the fact that the East Timorese militiamen were recruited in the first place showed they were pro-Indonesian.

"They have asked for guns from the military to create civil war," Amancio Araújo, a pro-independence activist in Dili, the East Timor capital, told Reuters. "The decision for possible independence has been engineered by the central government to create civil war. We are anticipating that."

Janet Hunt, executive director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, said civil war was inevitable in East Timor unless quick and strong action was taken to defuse the situation. She said Indonesian troops should immediately be replaced by a UN peace-keeping force.



An East Timorese boy waiting for some customers in a market in Dili on Wednesday. The territory's capital, like the boy, remained calm.

BRIEFLY

U.S. Asks Pakistan To Help on Terrorist

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A senior U.S. official held talks with Foreign Minister Saad Aziz of Pakistan that were said to have covered Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born terrorism suspect living as a "guest" of the Taliban militia in Afghanistan.

Mr. Aziz and the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, Karl Inderfurth, were also thought to have discussed Afghan drug production and other regional issues.

The United States raised the issue of Osama bin Laden and renewed concern over his fresh threats to Americans, seeking Pakistan support for his extradition from Afghanistan, an official said. No statement was issued after the talks. (Reuters)

Call for Korea Talks

SEOUL — North Korea on Wednesday proposed high-level political talks with South Korea for the first time in years. But the North's initiative contained many conditions that Seoul has previously rejected, including repeal of its national security law and an end to joint military exercises with the United States.

Among other things, the security law makes it a crime to speak or write favorably about North Korea or have any unauthorized contact with its citizens.

There was no immediate South Korean response. (AP)

Lahore Summit Run

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee plans to travel on the inaugural run of a cross-border bus service to meet with the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

The Indian Express newspaper quoted Mr. Sharif on Wednesday as saying he would like Mr. Vajpayee to take the bus trip from New Delhi to Lahore. The date of the inaugural trip has not been set. Test runs were made in January. (Reuters)

For the Record

Yasser Arafat affirmed Wednesday his intention of carrying out the Oslo West Bank peace accord, with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.



Richard Clarke, the coordinator of U.S. government efforts to prevent terrorism.

Clarke said he was "not a person who likes to do things the hard way." "That can be abrasive," he said.

es Tear Into Self-Image

continue to look for a while," Mr. Alamo said. "But there is no question my income will be less than half what I was earning."

Fearful of the social costs that accompany frustration of the sort Mr. Alamo is experiencing, the government goes to great lengths to try to keep unemployment figures from rising, by providing generous public subsidies to companies to keep workers on their payrolls.

"There is so-called invisible unemployment in corporations today that may become visible in the future, in which case the rate will become much higher than it is now," warned Alvaro Uribe, a labor minister, at a recent press gathering.

Mr. Uribe refused to make any estimates of what the real level would be. "These kinds of figures can drive the uncertainty of the Japanese economy," he said. "I cannot say what the figures are," he said. "It's my corporate secret."

Although the government has pumped upward of \$500 billion to stimulate economic activity, the unemployment rate has climbed steadily.

"Just after the measures are implemented, the number of jobs that come open increases a little," said Kazuo Ishihara, an official at the Ishihara-Hella Work office. "But the effect doesn't last long, the measures don't really have that much impact."

BRIEFLY

7 Girls in Algeria Are Reported Freed

ALGIERS — Security forces killed 40 armed Muslim extremists and a ransom five and freed seven kidnapped girls in a 10-day sweep in eastern Algeria, the daily El Ach reported Wednesday.

The helicopter-supported army operation, backed by police and village self-defense groups, also resulted in the seizure of 17 home-made mortars and the destruction of several arm caches, the newspaper said. The security forces suffered no casualties, it added. (AP)

Foes Reported to Sign Guinea-Bissau Pact

DAKAR, Senegal — Leaders of the warring sides in Guinea-Bissau signed a peace accord Wednesday, paving the way for hundreds of regional intervention troops to deploy in the small west African state, sources here said.

The rebels' leader, the sacked and jailed General Ansumane Mané, and the head of state, President José Manuel Viana, signed the accord presented by visiting ministerial delegation on Wednesday, the sources said.

Hard-Liner Seeks Mexico Presidency

MEXICO CITY — Manuel Bartlemez, one of Mexico's most controversial politicians and a leading hard-liner in the governing party, has started a campaign to win the party's presidential nomination for the election next year.

Until now, the party's unwritten rule allowed the sitting president to pick his successor, a practice that President Carlos Salinas has followed to keep Mr. Bartlemez as governor of Puebla until his term ended Monday. (AP)

Clinton Will Meet 2 Latin Presidents

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will meet Friday with President Alberto Fujimori of Peru and President Rafael Ángel Calderón of Costa Rica to support a peace agreement the two nations signed in October.

The two presidents will be in a region seeking global aid for a peace agreement plan for then American leader, which was most recently the scene of fighting in 1995.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Arithmetic for Kosovo

The United States and its European allies are debating their respective commitments of troops to a possible Kosovo peacekeeping force. It is an interesting question, entailing issues of American leadership and European responsibility. But the most important number is a different one: how many troops and police, if any, Serbia will be permitted to retain in Kosovo.

If this number is high, a NATO force will have to be very large indeed to succeed. But if NATO insists that all Serbian forces must withdraw, then every NATO ally's contribution can be smaller.

Kosovo is a province of Serbia, which in turn is the biggest chunk of what remains of Yugoslavia. Ninety percent of Kosovo's population is ethnic Albanian, 10 percent ethnic Serbian. Since 1989, the Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic has imposed an apartheid-style repression under which the majority enjoyed few rights. And for the past year, Mr. Milosevic, using Serbian police and Yugoslav troops, has waged a brutal war against the ethnic Albanian population.

NATO finally has decreed that Mr. Milosevic's massacres and other war crimes have to stop. The alliance understands that continued civil war threatens stability throughout the Balkans, not to mention NATO's credibility. So the alliance is insisting that ethnic Albanians and Mr. Milosevic's government negotiate a quick agreement on Kosovo autonomy. NATO peacekeepers would enforce the agreement for three years or so, after which final decisions on Kosovo's status, whether independence or something less, would be made.

Even as the Clinton administration gingerly discusses such a force with Congress, it is jockeying with European allies on who will bear the largest burden. Military planners believe that a force of 28,000 might do the job, and the British and French are ready to supply about 8,000 troops each. They would like the Americans to deploy about as many. However, the U.S. military is so far talking about a contribution of 2,000.

That would be pitifully few—counterproductively few, in fact. It is fine to urge the Europeans to do more for European peace, and the French and British have said they will deploy troops regardless of U.S. decisions. But U.S. leadership is key. Mr. Milosevic will take more seriously a force with meaningful American participation, and Kosovo Albanians are more likely to believe in such a force and lay down their arms. There is more risk in sending too few troops than in sending too many; the United States should show that it intends to succeed in the mission and protect its soldiers. And if an active U.S. army of a half-million men and women can't find 6,000 troops for this job, Congress should ask the generals some serious questions.

But all of this is academic if President Bill Clinton and his NATO allies do not insist on a Serbian troop withdrawal. As long as Mr. Milosevic's troops are in Kosovo, NATO troops will not be safe and Kosovars will not be able to rebuild their country, nor will they be able to establish the democratic institutions that NATO is demanding. Zero Serbian soldiers—that is the key number for a lasting peace.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Choice in Mexico

Mexico's passage to democracy remains uncertain and incomplete. Opposition parties now hold a majority in Congress as well as the country's second-most-powerful electoral post, the majority of Mexico City. But Mexico's presidency, where political power is overwhelmingly concentrated, has been controlled without interruption by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, for seven decades. That monopoly could well end in next year's elections.

What should definitely end is the traditional system of letting the incumbent president from the PRI choose the party's nominee to succeed him. There is still time to act before the general election campaign begins.

Eight months ago, President Ernesto Zedillo proposed an American-style primary. But he has done little to bring one about. Party officials indicated that a national party convention would be held last year to set nominating rules, but no nominating rules have yet been set. Mexico's two opposition parties, either of which has a realistic chance of

winning the presidential vote, plan to choose their candidates in nominating conventions this fall.

The main contenders for the PRI nomination are Francisco Labastida, now interior minister and a close political ally of Mr. Zedillo, and two state governors, Manuel Bartlett and Roberto Madrazo. Both governors are from the party's old guard and have resisted democratic change in the past. Still, they and others should have the right to a fair and democratic contest for the nomination.

The victorious generals of the Mexican Revolution organized the PRI in the 1920s to keep control over presidential succession. Through hand-picked nominations, unfair campaign rules and occasional electoral fraud, they and their PRI successors proved all too effective.

Recent reforms have made for fairer campaigns and cleaner balloting. The next step should be to introduce fair competition into the PRI's nomination process as well.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Paying Down the Debt

The interest on the U.S. national debt in the last fiscal year was \$243 billion; it made up a seventh of the budget. The president's budget projects that, five years from now, that figure will be down to \$173 billion if the surplus is used to pay down debt in the ratio he has proposed. There would be further reductions thereafter.

The huge interest savings that will result if the debt is reduced are the sleeper in the current budget outlook. They are a principal reason why the surplus is projected to last as long as it is; without them, it would much more quickly disappear.

By the same token, they represent a hidden additional cost if, instead of being used to retire debt, the surplus is "spent" either literally or on a tax cut. The cost of a tax cut, by this measure, is not just the revenue that the government would give up but the higher than anticipated interest it would have to pay on larger than anticipated debt. Increased spending comes with a similar shadow cost.

The president incurred such a cost even in his own budget. He proposed using only about three-fourths of the surplus to pay down debt as a way of reserving it to meet future Social Security and Medicare costs.

The remaining fourth he would use in part for a tax cut to create the "universal savings accounts" with which he would supplement Social Security, and in part for increased defense and

domestic spending. Because not all would be used to reduce the debt, interest costs in just the next five fiscal years would be \$24 billion higher than otherwise. The cost through the year 2014 would be \$387 billion.

It was in the Reagan years that the deficit soared to the heights from which the government is only now recovering. The debt quadrupled; interest costs doubled as a share of the budget, from about 7 percent to 15 percent. A sizable share of the present budget is thus the deferred cost of past indiscipline.

The surplus provides an opportunity to reduce that. The effect would be to strengthen the ability of the government to meet its future obligations. Among other things, having lowered the debt, it could much more easily borrow again if it had to. In the meantime, the increased savings would in theory add to economic growth.

The president would not use all the surplus for this purpose. Nor perhaps should he; the country has other needs. But on balance, in our judgment, his budget pushes in the right direction.

Mr. Clinton finessed the cuts that must still be made in long-term Social Security and Medicare costs. But the broad alternative, which is to "conserve" in the form of a tax cut what ought to be saved for these and other public purposes, including a sufficient defense, is wrong.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

The Trans-Atlantic Partnership Needs Tending

By Flora Lewis

DAVOS, Switzerland — A large number of Americans came to this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, and they had a wide variety of backgrounds. With some exceptions, they seemed more distant and disengaged from Europe and the rest of the world than a decade ago.

Business may be globalizing and the world web-weaving, a serious information gap is nonetheless growing, particularly on the American side. The old U.S. Eastern foreign policy establishment has gone, and with it much of the sense that what happens in Europe matters to America. The words of common goals are repeated, but they often cover a remarkable ignorance of and disinterest toward European affairs.

In part this reflects the sheer passage of time, a dominant generation that does not remember the Great Depression and World War II and its aftermath. In part, it is the shift of attention to Asia, first as the mighty miracle of future wealth and now as the threat of spreading crisis. In part, it is the loss of focus on friend versus foe with the end of the Cold War.

The American media have cut back very sharply on foreign news, studies of newspaper and television coverage make clear. And except for a dramatic war situation like Bosnia or Kosovo,

there is now little reporting on Europe. In a few cases, the result showed in startling misconceptions of current and historic fact.

For example, Steve Forbes, the wealthy publisher and presidential candidate, spoke of Charlemagne uniting Europe a couple of hundred years ago and warned that Europe would be torn apart like Yugoslavia if it did not reform its social system and give people more personal control of their money. This was a combination of sheer error and an ideology conservative to a degree no longer conceivable here, which took Europeans' breath away.

Others, well respected in the United States, seemed to think of foreign policy as no more than trade. Many wondered why the Europeans do not just do things the American way, and felt that there was no further need to know about them.

Americans who are informed and convinced of the abiding importance of the Atlantic link are aware of and deeply concerned about this cultural and political unraveling of ties. "It's pathetic, just pathetic," a senior U.S. official said. But nobody suggested doing anything about it.

There is a growing difference in political assumptions now, with militant conservatives vociferous on the American scene and 11 of the 15 European Union governments led by socialists and social democrats.

There are ultra-right-wing parties in Europe, but they are nationalist, not anti-government. Nobody wants to dismantle the welfare state, however much reform may be required.

In the United States, it is not only the right that widens the gap. That old Eastern establishment has come under attack not only from the Midwest and traditional isolationists but also from the left and the "postmodern" intellectuals who reject a special respect for the European origins of Western civilization.

It is the value feud between "I, Rigoberta Menchu" and Shakespeare. A professor explained that American universities still teach international relations but that there has been a shift of content. The emphasis is likely to be on women's studies, or on development problems, issues judged to be politically correct. To learn about how Europe is functioning and evolving as it deals with social problems is "neocolonialism" in this view, a regression into the past.

Of course, Europe is still there, even if it has been elicited off some Amer-

ican screens, and its gradually integrating countries remain America's most important partners in dealing with a troubled, unruly world.

The extraordinary transformation of Europe in the past half-century leaves world leaders to worry about peacekeeping on other continents. With the painful exception of former Yugoslavia and remnants of violence in Northern Ireland — the more painful now because they are seen as impermissible exceptions — Europe is at peace and intends to remain that way.

It is of necessity the successful European-American coalition that has a chance to maintain peace, promote living standards and confront the new global agenda of problems facing everyone but beyond the capacity of most to resolve.

But that coalition cannot just be government-to-government tending. There must be sustenance and support from the various communities of civil society, from the centers of learning, from the sheer interest, curiosity and will of people to know about each other and learn from each other's triumphs and tragedies.

The American-European connection is too important to let it just wither from ignorance and inattention.

Flora Lewis.

Puzzle in India: Share Power Soon or Await Elections?

By James Manor

NEW DELHI — A struggle for political power in India is intensifying. The outcome is likely to determine not just the immediate survival of the Hindu nationalist-led government, but also the long-term fate of the opposition Congress Party.

The coalition government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party is in danger of collapse after a parliamentary vote of no confidence in the next few weeks. Even if it survives in the short run, its ineptitude and the squabbling within the coalition make it unlikely to last for more than a year or so.

The Congress Party, the largest force in opposition, is eager to bring the government down, but it faces a painful dilemma. The strategy that best serves its long-term interests could keep the BJP in power for quite some time.

If the BJP government should fall, Congress must choose between taking power soon by forming a new coalition government in the present Parliament, or going straight into an election for a new Parliament. Most Congress members prefer to take immediate control. That would give them instant access to political spoils that they are eager to command as soon as possible.

After governing India for 44 of the 51 years since independence, Congress politicians feel deeply uncomfortable in opposition, cut off from the sources of political patronage that are the party's lifeblood.

Their leader, Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, disagrees. She sees that if an election is held after the present government collapses, her party would gain many seats as a result of a popular backlash against the BJP. That would

probably not give Congress a majority in the new Parliament, but it would be in a much stronger position than now.

Such an outcome would reverse a long-running decline of the party that many observers see as irreversible. Internal factionalism and corruption have weakened Congress so severely that this may be its last chance to turn things around.

If Congress takes power in the present Parliament, it will limp along at the head of a chaotic coalition. It would have to depend on three very different clusters of smaller parties — the Communist left, a set of

regional parties, and a party that represents lower caste groups in two north Indian states. These three clusters are mutually hostile, because of ideological differences and ego clashes among their leaders.

If Congress tried to lead a coalition of these parties, it would soon be embarrassed by very public squabbles among them. It would swiftly earn voters' scorn, as the BJP has done in recent months for similar reasons. Before long, the Congress-led coalition would disintegrate. At the ensuing election, the Congress Party would suffer a popular backlash

like that which currently awaits the BJP. Its chance for revival would have been squandered.

As Mrs. Gandhi rightly sees, the best option for Congress is to seek a fresh election. But that strategy raises a big problem.

Most of the small parties that might soon withdraw support from the BJP and bring it down want to avoid an early poll. They prefer to join a Congress-led coalition, to retain a grip on power. Their members of Parliament fear that in an early election they might lose their seats. Because they have only held them since early last year, they would not have been in office long enough to qualify for handsome pensions.

Any suggestion from Mrs. Gandhi that she wants an early election makes those parties reluctant to abandon the BJP.

Her best strategy might have been to dissemble — to suggest that she might take power after the BJP falls, even though she intends to go to the polls. But she has lately been sending clear signals that she prefers elections. By doing so, she may have handed the BJP an extension to its political life.

The writer, a fellow of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, in Brighton, England, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

The New Ally for German Business Is Green

By Martin Hufner

MUNICH — Much to their surprise, some German business leaders have found common ground with their erstwhile worst enemy, the Greens, who are emerging as the voice of economic reason in the center-left government in a number of areas.

This stands in contrast with the mood after the September elections, when the victorious Social Democrats brought the Greens into a government coalition. There was grave concern that, once the Greens grabbed a little power, they would push an anti-capitalist agenda.

In fact, the Greens and their pragmatic leader, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, are fiscally conservative, more so in many ways than the Social Democrats and their finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine. A Green politician has characterized Mr. Lafontaine as someone "who is stuck in a

totally outdated concept of demand-side economics."

The Greens, for example, oppose various large subsidies for industries such as coal mining.

Reform of the generous pension system is another instance of the Greens' fiscal sense. While the Social Democrats are determined to undo the very limited scaling-back carried out by the previous government, the Greens advocate a firm focus on generational equity. They do not believe that it is wise to add to the financial burden of today's and tomorrow's work force.

For the Greens, "sustainability" is more than an environmental concept, and relates to financial, economic and social policy as well. They believe that if the level of consumption is not sustainable — be it in the form of deficit spending, the overconsumption of state services or

environmental degradation — then policies must change.

The Greens are even sympathetic to the idea that corporate taxes must be revamped to make German business more competitive. Their calculation is simple: Financially weak companies cannot make the necessary investments in technologies to protect the environment. The Greens' persistence forced German business to deal with pollution and other problems before other countries did. In fact, environmentally sensitive technologies such as air reclamation are one of the few areas in which German business can claim a dominance comparable to its strong overall position 15 years ago.

In some cases, it is business that has given due consideration to the Greens' way of thinking, rather than vice versa. Take a party proposal to triple Germany's already high gasoline taxes. Many corporate and financial leaders were agnostic.

But one cannot escape noticing that, at the very time the idea was floated, Volkswagen introduced its new Lupo car that is designed to run at 78 miles (125 kilometers) per gallon. From a purely economic point of view, by the time that kind of leap forward in efficiency takes a broader hold in the marketplace, even a tripling of gasoline prices would not impose an additional burden on drivers.

As advanced industrialized societies, we need to realize that the automobile industry can no longer rely on the "bigger and more powerful" slogans of yesteryear. "More intelligent" will do, as we look forward to improved fuel eco-

nomy and wider use of information technology such as navigation systems.

It is true that at times the Greens' single-mindedness in pursuing their goals has proved highly frustrating to business leaders. In retrospect, however, these tough battles yielded a considerable amount of mutual respect. Even the Greens' more outlandish ideas sometimes make an odd sort of sense.

For example, a while ago, a party leader, worried about the waste of jet fuel, advocated that Germans be allowed to fly to vacation destinations only once every five years. While an example of severe overregulation, the idea makes a point. From the standpoint of global competitiveness, Germans do spend too much time on vacation.

As long as Mr. Fischer manages to steer his party in the right direction, the Greens' anti-establishment thinking provides a refreshing element in German politics.

Contrary to all expectations, the Greens have had such a good start in the new government that it has caused Germany's astute chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, to change his own political strategy. Rather than letting them occupy the center ground in German politics, he is co-opting them with them to put an effective check on the Social Democrats' left wing, which has so far resisted reforms.

In working more closely with the Greens, Mr. Schröder may be readying Germany for the changes it needs.

The writer, chief economist of the Munich-based Bayerische Vereinsbank, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

A Bubble Question Unanswered

By Floyd Norris

NEW YORK — Bubble talk is back. From Davos, where Microsoft's Bill Gates was expressing bewilderment as to why people would pay so much for Internet stocks, to Washington, where Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, questioned overall stock prices but said that some Internet companies might be good investments even at current prices, people are talking about investment bubbles that might burst.

"Bubble" is a pejorative term for an investment whose price rises and rises and then collapses. It is widely agreed that just such a thing happened to Japanese stock and real estate prices in the late 1980s, and that Japan has yet to recover. Unfortunately, talking about bubbles is easier than spotting a real one, and it is even more difficult to know when one will burst.

Charles Kindleberger, the economist and author of "Manias, Panics and Crashes," the definitive academic study of such things, thought he saw a bubble in America's stock market a few years back. "I agreed with Greenspan in 1996 when he talked about irrational exuberance, and the stock market is up 50 percent since then," said Mr. Kindleberger, now retired from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I'm still looking to see what would come up suddenly to keep the lemmings from running. Where is the cliff they will run over?"

Bubble talk now tends to deal with two related but separate phenomena. Has the overall level of American stock prices got away from economic reality? Is it possible that Internet companies will someday earn enough to justify the lofty peaks that their stocks reached last month? Some dismiss all such talk as nonsense. Markets are rational, they say, so bubbles cannot exist. Even the Dutch tulip bulb boom now has academics who argue that it was rational.

That argument, however, does not give sufficient weight to the role of psychology in investing. "There is nothing," Mr. Kindleberger has written, "so disturbing to one's well-being and judgment as to see a friend get rich."

In any period of speculative excess, those who urge caution are discredited well before the bubble bursts.

In 1720, Sir Isaac Newton invested in the South Sea Company, whose dreams of profiting from exploration made it into a classic bubble. Realizing that prices had gone crazy, he sold at a profit, explaining, "I can calculate the motions of heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people." But prices kept rising, and Newton bought again, at the top. He suffered huge losses.

Peter Bernstein, an economic historian and consultant to money managers, is one who thinks that the Internet stocks are in a bubble, but that while the stock market as a whole is overvalued it is well short of one. What is the difference?

"A bubble is totally out of touch with reality, where the greater-fool theory is the dominant driving force, where you are totally confident that somebody will be willing to pay higher prices no matter what you pay," he said.

Nonetheless, said Mr. Bernstein, the most remarkable thing about this period is "the really broad acceptance of the idea that nothing bad is going to happen to the U.S. economy." He does not remember people feeling this way even in the late 1960s. The economic expansion that ended in 1969 lasted almost nine years, the only one in American history longer than this one, which began in 1991.

Mr. Greenspan warned last year that America could not long remain an island of prosperity, but it has. When he voices concern about stock prices, there is little market reaction, in contrast to 1996.

If there is a bubble, what will happen when it is pricked? The histories of Japan in the 1990s and the United States in the 1930s argue that bursting bubbles devastate economies. But it does not have to be that way, particularly if the bubble is confined to the Internet stocks. Mr. Bernstein compared this boom to 1961, when investors flocked to space technology companies amid expectations that space would bring untold riches. Those stocks collapsed with the overall market in 1962, but no recession ensued and most stocks recovered.

The New York Times.

Herald Tribune

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TribTech

Pill on a Chip Could Aid Patients and Doctors

By John O'Neil
New York Times Service

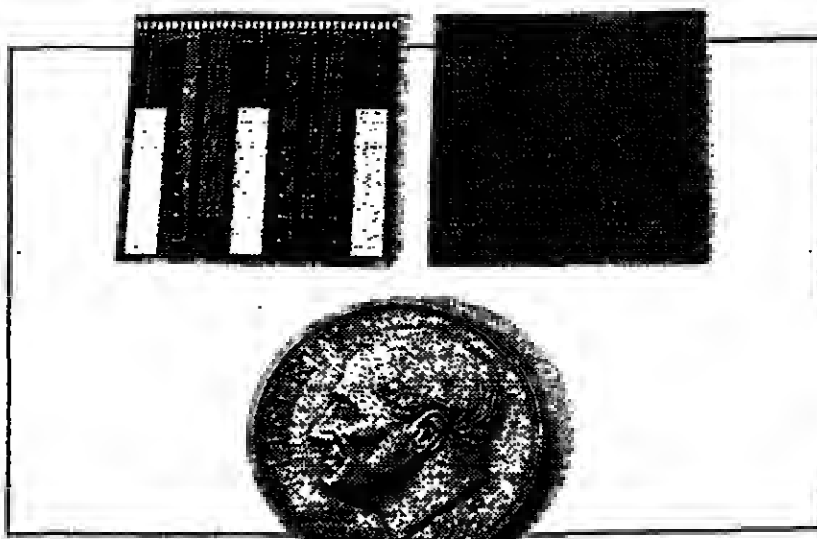
NEW YORK — Pills are simple: Their coatings dissolve, and medicine travels throughout the body. In recent years, some surgeons have begun using a more targeted delivery system, implanting tiny vials of potent medicine directly into tumors, where it seeps out gradually.

Now, engineers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have built a prototype of something far more sophisticated: a kind of microchip, a silicon chip the size of a small coin that could release a combination of drugs on a preprogrammed schedule or by remote control.

Dr. Robert Langer, a chemical and biomedical engineering professor, and Dr. Michael Cima, a material sciences professor, previously came up with a way of using ultrasound technology to deliver some medicines through the skin without breaking the surface, a process now in clinical trials.

Working with a chemical engineering graduate student, John Santini Jr., they turned to the question of devising a delivery system that would offer physicians greater control over dosage and timing.

In research described last week in the journal *Nature*, they made use of techniques already developed for the manufacture of computer chips to carve a compartment with a volume of 25 nanoliters — about a quarter of one grain of



On the front of the microchip, at left, the dots between the larger bars are the caps covering the reservoirs that hold the medication, which is put in through the larger openings on the back, shown at right.

salt — out of a silicon wafer.

Devices that work on the same principle as ink-jet printers can, with computer guidance, fill those compartments with doses of medicine as low as two nanoliters, Dr. Langer said.

The harder part was figuring out what kind of a cap to put on that compartment

— a lid that could be removed on command using a kind of remote control. They made the covering out of a gold membrane, a mere three-millionths of a meter thick, surrounded by a chloride solution.

That is strong and stable enough to hold in the dose — except in the pres-

ence of an electrical charge. "Apply a little voltage," Dr. Langer said, "and the gold will dissolve into a gold chloride solution; now the cap is off, and the contents can come out."

Dr. Langer said much work remained to be done to go from this "proof of principle" prototype — a model meant to show that the concept could work — to actual use.

In particular, they would like to find biodegradable materials, which would allow a device to be implanted and then left to dissolve after use.

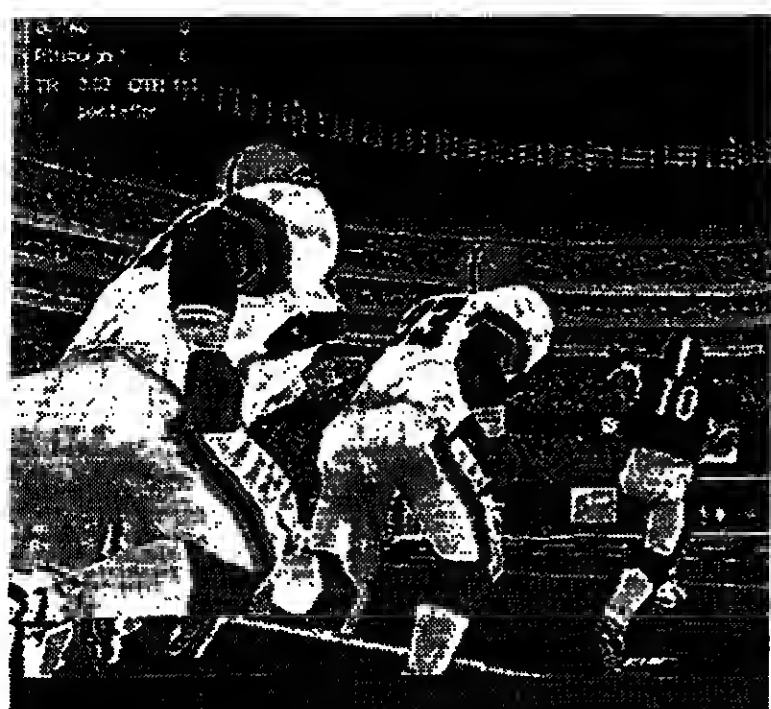
HE ACKNOWLEDGED that a crucial question would be determining when using such a complicated device would be worth the trouble. "Any type of implant wouldn't do for a cold but would for cancer," he said.

Some implants already being used with cancer patients can deliver tiny dosages. "But they don't offer the kind of control for multiple drugs or different release patterns," Dr. Langer said.

And in coming stages of research, they hope to combine the chip with microbatteries and biosensors, to make a device able to react to changes within body tissue.

Looking down the road, Dr. Langer envisions a wider range of uses. "They could be swallowable," he said. "Right now a lot of elderly patients have to take five or six drugs at different times of day. You might be able to take a single pill and put all the different dosages inside."

ALT / Commentary



Buffalo Bills defenders chasing a Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback in Sierra's glitchy NFL computer game, which was taken off the market.

Consumers Win a Game
In a Rarity, Software Firm Offers a RefundBy John Burgess
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Ap-
plause, please, for the com-
puter-game maker Sierra
Inc. — not for creating a great piece of
software, but for creating a lousy one
and owning up to it.

Last month, citing "errors in the
program's code," the company re-
called all of the nearly 50,000 copies of
the NFL Football Pro '99 game it
had shipped.

Stores were told to take the game
off the shelves; anyone who had
bought one (it had a suggested retail
price of \$29.95) was offered a full
refund and a free game, or patches and
a discount on the next version.

The company's president, David
Grenewitz, all but flattered himself
in a public statement.

"I want to apologize to all our loyal
customers for releasing a product be-
fore it was ready," he said. "We let
the impending end of the football sea-
son influence our decision process. We
dropped the ball."

When I first saw the announce-
ment, I assumed that the game was a
complete bust; you'd try to run it and it
would balk, or it would erase ev-
erything on your hard drive. But it
turns out the problems are more subtle
than that. The game runs, but it can do
some cockeyed things, such as mis-
calculate statistics for the on-screen
teams in certain circumstances, or
have a quarterback throw right when
he's looking left, or leave holes in the
defensive backfield that no real team
would allow.

"It's a series of issues that range
from polish to performance that col-
lectively make it much more than an
annoyance to the customer," said
Sean Gleason, the company's director
of marketing.

Like his boss, Mr. Gleason went out
of his way to be contrite. But, truth be
told, we're not talking about your hard
drive getting trashed.

What he described sounded a lot
like the quirks that many software
companies treat as par for the course
in a new release. Ignore them, patch
them, fix them next time around. But
whatever you do, don't concede that
the customer has a beef worthy of a
refund.

We don't accept that a television set
sold to us is only a work in progress,
nor a car, nor a pin-striped suit. We
expect them all to live up to the prom-
ises and to get our money back if they
don't. Yet the software industry
makes us treat its shortcomings dif-
ferently.

Maybe Sierra's decision is the first
step toward software companies tak-
ing the same responsibility for their
products that just about every other
industry does.

Not likely, actually.
In the software industry, there's an
explanation-justification-rationaliza-
tion that is just too strong to be over-

come by one company's action.

It goes like this: Software is too
complicated to ship without a major
collection of bugs. Bugs are so in-
sidious and skilled at hiding that many
only become known over the course
of long use by large numbers of
people.

Customers should just understand
that, the companies feel.

So you can imagine how tough a
decision this must have been for Si-
erra. On the one hand, no company
wants the embarrassment and cost of a
recall; yet it had established a solid
reputation in football simulation for
years, competing with the John Mad-
den line of games from Fox Sports,
and wanted to hang onto that.

The version in question was a
ground-up rebuild that the company
launched about 18 months ago. Like
most software development projects,
this one fell behind schedule.

The marketing people had aimed
for a release timed to the late-summer
start of the football season. Mr.
Gleason said. That deadline was not
made, and the weeks went by, with the
development team rushing to get
things ready. The holiday season
came and went; still no game on the
market.

Software sales, especially for
games, are very seasonal. If you miss
the time of the year that's relevant to
your product, you're in big trouble. So
someone in Sierra made the decision
to push the game onto the market in
the final days of the football season —
it reached the store shelves in the last
week of December.

The complaints started coming in
quickly. Through postings on the
company's Web boards, the message
was delivered loud and clear that
something was seriously wrong, Mr.
Gleason said. There were problems no
one in the development team had
known about. On Jan. 20, the com-
pany bit the bullet and issued the recall.

Owners can get a full refund, plus a
credit for a purchase of another Sierra
game at \$30 or less.

For those who opt to keep the game,
Sierra has established what it is call-
ing the Football Pro Home Team.
Members get patches to fix deficien-
cies in the program and a \$20 rebate
toward purchase of NFL Football Pro
2000, the next version of the game,
which Sierra hopes to get on the mar-
ket in August — but swears that it
won't go out until it is ready.

Full details of the recall are avail-
able by calling 1-800-757-7707 in the
United States.

So, was anyone disciplined at the
company about this? "There have
been some changes made," said Mr.
Gleason, offering nothing more.

Perhaps someone should get into
trouble — but someone else should
get a medal.

John Burgess's e-mail address is:
burgessj@washpost.com.

Patented Ways
To Advertise
In CyberspaceBy Teresa Riordan
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The basic
premise of CyberGold, an elec-
tronic commerce company in
Berkeley, California, is that the best
way to get consumers to read Internet
advertisements is to pay them to do so.

It finds advertisers willing to pay
people who sign up at its World Wide
Web site (www.cybergold.com) and look
at the ads. It then compensates con-
sumers who demonstrate in some way
that they have read an ad by crediting an
account in the consumer's name; the
amounts range from 50 cents for down-
loading America Online Inc. software to
\$100 for referring a new, paid-up sub-
scriber to the At Home Internet service.

CyberGold recently received its
second patent covering this idea. The
company's patents also cover two other
intriguing approaches to advertising in
cyberspace.

The first is a way for consumers to
store direct-marketing information
about themselves on their computers —
like their income bracket, ZIP code,
hobbies and profession — so they can
be compensated every time they release
such information to advertisers.

"The notion here is that the infor-
mation about you belongs to you and
doesn't belong to anybody else," said
Nat Goldhaber, chief executive of Cy-
berGold. "And you can decide when you
release it and whether you want to be paid
for it globally or on an ad hoc basis."

The patents also cover a way of tun-
ing conventional advertising-based pub-
lishing on its head. In Mr. Goldhaber's
patented Internet publishing system, on-
line authors or other creators of on-line
content would not be paid a set fee by a
publisher. Instead, they would receive a
tiny commission from each new reader,
who in turn has been paid to read an
accompanying advertisement. Cyber-
Gold would act as a clearinghouse for
these transactions, effectively cutting
out the role of a publisher.

"First you get paid to see the ads and
then you use that to pay for the con-
tent," he said. "You change the flow of
money. But you don't change the basic
setup, which is that advertising supports
publishing."

Mr. Goldhaber said this type of pat-
ent, known as a business-method patent,
empowers people who want to self-
publish or consumers who want to com-
pensate for their time. But he and Gary
Fitz, co-founder of CyberGold, are
coming under fire for having patented
these ways of doing business.

Jamie Love, director of the Consumer
Project on Technology in Washington,
said he would press Congress to conduct
hearings on CyberGold's patents as well
as other business-method patents. Mr.
Love said he disagreed with the idea that
CyberGold's system was novel enough to
be patented, contending that he had
written articles on a similar concept
back in the 1980s. "And I didn't con-
sider myself the inventor then," he said.

"This is typical of the poor quality of
review they give at the Patent and Trade-
mark Office for this sort of thing."

Mr. Love described as "dangerous"
the legal monopoly that these patents
provide, arguing that politicians would
likely use such cash incentives to get
potential voters to read their material
on-line. "Suppose one candidate in a
given campaign were the only one to be
given a license to the patent," he said.
"He would be the only one who could
disseminate information this way."

Mr. Goldhaber conceded that politi-
cians would probably use the system,
noting that while it is illegal to buy
votes, it is not illegal to pay voters to
read political tracts. "Instead of offer-
ing a drink down at the bar for com-
ing to a rally," he said, "you can offer a
buck and let them go down to the bar and
buy their own drink."

On-Line Oasis in Haiti's Cyber Desert
Country's Only Internet Café Attracts Wealthy Elite and ForeignersBy Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

PETITVILLE, Haiti — Soft
jazz is wafting through the air as
several well-heeled people surf
the Internet and send e-mail while sip-
ping coffee at computers in a second-
floor room tastefully wallpapered in an
old-world map motif. At the bar down-
stairs, where the walls are lined with
colorful drawings of the planets, the
menu includes cappuccino, espresso,
mocha, rum punches and an assort-
ment of American-style snacks.

This trendy, high-tech ambience
evokes images of cybercafés in Seattle,
San Francisco or New York. But this
one is in Haiti, and it is a striking
anomaly in a country where the over-
whelming majority of the population
of 7 million is impoverished and il-
literate and most people have no elec-
tricity, telephones or running water.

Haiti's only such café, Computer
World, opened in June 1997 in the
heart of Petitville, a somewhat up-
scale town that is home to a large
portion of Haiti's small moneyed elite
a short drive into the highlands from
the grinding poverty of the capital,
Port-au-Prince.

The café has found a solid niche
among the nation's wealthy but more
so among the relatively large number
of foreigners who reside here, most of
whom work for nongovernmental or-
ganizations or the United Nations mis-
sion in Haiti.

By using a satellite link, Computer
World avoids depending on Haiti's un-
reliable state telephone service for In-
ternet access and skips other frustra-
ting delays caused by backed-up calls to
the country's four local servers.

"When customers come here, they
get connected fast; when they walk in,
they are on-line," said Jonas Guil-
laume, 32, a Haitian who started Com-
puter World with \$80,000 he and his
two brothers had saved and financial
help from their father.

"I could not have a cybercafé if I
had to count on phone lines," he said.
"After a big rain, for example, you
could be without a phone for a month."

Furthermore, it can take years to obtain
phone service from Haiti's monopoly,
Teleco. Mr. Guillaume, who studied
computer science in Montreal, said he
decided to open the café after returning



Customers getting on-line at Computer World, Haiti's only cybercafé.

to Haiti in 1996 from West Palm
Beach, Florida, where for two and a
half years he was unable to find suit-
able work in the computer field.

"When I came back, everybody
among the Haitian elites was talking
Internet, Internet, Internet," he re-
called. "And so I am starting to think
how they are getting on-line."

It is estimated that fewer than 5,000
Haitians have access to the Internet via
the country's servers; still, limited ef-
forts to expand computer and Internet
use in Haiti have gotten off the ground.

The government is trying to develop an
"intranet" that would link all its min-
istries, and a growing number of courses
are available to teach people how to use
computer systems and on-line services.

On a recent afternoon, Reuben Sum-
merlin, 28, an American who recently
moved to Haiti and works for a non-
governmental organization, said the café
had allowed him to gain access to his
America Online Inc. account regu-
larly and thus do his job better and stay
in touch with relatives more easily.

"I would not be as effective at work
or have as much contact with my fam-
ily if it were not for this place," said
Mr. Summerlin, adding that he gen-
erally came to Computer World every

two days for about 90 minutes.

Others had less pressing reasons for
frequenting the café. "If you are not
home and you want to check your e-
mail, you can just drop by," said Jean-
Bouchereau, 18, a high school student
who was born in the United States. "I
also like it," he added, "because it
reminds me of the States. It is the
environment; it is kind of cool. It is
different than anything else around
Port-au-Prince."

BUT THE CAFÉ is still vul-
nerable to some of the problems that
plague this Caribbean country.
Electricity, for instance, routinely fails;
a problem that has forced Mr. Guil-
laume to buy a generator and an inverter
for the café so that incoming e-mail
does not get lost. Furthermore, some
clients have complained that the com-
puter system can be slow.

Computer World has 150 members,
mostly foreigners, who pay dues of \$45
a month, which entitles them to 20 hours
of computer use. Nonmembers pay \$4
an hour to use the café, which is open
every day. It has eight IBM terminals
purchased in Miami, and Mr. Guillaume
said it was adding eight more.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

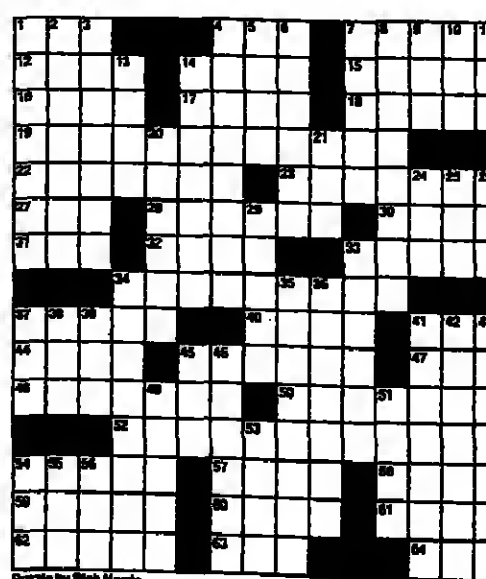
- 1 Harmful
- 4 Insufficient, as an excuse
- 7 Kind of gun
- 12 Reveals, as a Shakespeare
- 14 Potential C.I.A. problem
- 15 Unequaled
- 16 Amble
- 17 In (cheekless)
- 18 Woman of letters?
- 19 Deal counter order
- 22 Campus groups
- 23 Reproducible in great detail
- 27 In demand
- 28 Live most stadiums
- 30 Dumb chuck
- 31 Literary monogram
- 32 First name in jazz
- 33 Brave
- 34 It creates a big splash
- 37 Obscure
- 40 Eastern Sea
- 41 Jerk
- 44 Enthralled
- 45 Send away
- 47 Capt.'s predication

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 3

AGAPE SNAP NEST
SIDED POLE ASEA
KRONA ATAM STAG
ADRAMACRITICUS
NEBESERN MAMIE
TREBEK PRADO
AMANNHOLLEAVES
FLO REARSE
ELVES NEXTTO
WISTED ALOE OER
NOTURNUNSTONED
SANE ONCE RHINE
ALTE WEIR INTER
GLOW EXIES GOERS

DOWN

- 2 Soup served with cream
- 3 Hanks, so to speak
- 6 Drift
- 8 Marketing technique
- 9 Sluggo Mole
- 10 Extant
- 11 Kept
- 12 Emphasized
- 13 Former Dodgey Coy
- 14 Richards of Texas
- 15 Formal vote
- 16 Sicken
- 17 Honor
- 18 Youngster
- 19 Youngster
- 20 Fingers
- 21 Playing hard to get
- 22 Jersey fabric
- 23 Iserettes pre-Exodus home
- 24 Mogule
- 25 Mississippi Burning part
- 26 Is attentive
- 27 Obsolete
- 28 Inflatable item
- 29 1988 Meg Ryan film
- 30 Kind of can
- 31 Leaf apertures
- 32 Carpenter's aid
- 33 Night spot?
- 34 Gluton
- 35 Editor's concerns
- 36 Breaker, maybe
- 37 Superseding in rank
- 38 Line made with a compass
- 39 Keen perception
- 40 Cat



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**FOR INVESTMENT
INFORMATION
Read THE MONEY REPORT
every Saturday in the IHT.**

Banker Current
Object, but Bank Chief

Lockheed Arms
for Battle in Con
Billion Bid

Microsoft Slips U

CUR

and Doctors

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...side solution, now the...
...concerns can come...
...Dr. Langer said...
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...to show that the...
...to actual use...
...In particular, they...
...biodegradable...
...allow a device to be...
...left to dissolve after...
...H...
...acknowledged...
...terminating...
...complicated device...
...possible. "Any type...
...for a cold but...
...Some implants...
...with cancer...
...control the multiple...
...release patterns...
...And in coming...
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...Looking down...
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...a few of elderly...
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...You might be...
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It's Cyber Desert

Warning: Elite and Foreigners



...Hart's only...
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...me...
...than...
...Prince

FOR INVESTMENT
INFORMATION
IN THE MONEY REPORT
every Sunday in the NY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1999

PAGE 9

A Yankee Currency for Argentina?

Many Object, but Bank Chief Plans to Push Idea in Washington

By Anthony Faiola
Washington Post Service

Buenos Aires — In the country of Juan Peron, the populist president who once tied the name of the U.S. ambassador to a pig and sent it squealing down the street, the government's recent proposal to consider scrapping the Argentine peso in favor of the U.S. dollar strikes some people here as grounds for revolution — or at least a good laugh. "Forget it — I don't want to live in the 51st state!" said Mauro Alvarez, 47, a taxi driver with Argentina's blue-and-white flag fixed to his rearview mirror. "O.K., I have a compromise," joked Antonio Gatti, 21, an office assistant contemplating his multicolored pesos at a local cafe. "We'll use American money, but only if they put Evita on the \$100 bill."

Two weeks ago, however, amid fears that Argentina may become the next target of currency speculators after the plunge last month of the Brazilian real, central bank officials publicly raised the possibility of adopting the dollar as Argentina's official currency. To push the idea, Pedro Pou, president of the central bank, plans to travel to Washington in the next few months to make a formal presentation. Besides raising such bizarre possibilities as the opening of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank branch in Buenos Aires, the proposal is sparking heated debate in political and financial circles about whether developing countries can or should protect themselves from global economic turmoil by giving up national currencies. "The political obstacles are formidable, but it's a highly interesting concept that could take the element of risk out of the Argentine economy," said Matias Silvani, an economist with Citibank in Buenos Aires. "I think the world is moving toward fewer central banks and less currencies, and Argentina could take the lead in this region by dollarizing."

The Argentine proposal also may force Washington to prove its willingness to put its money where its mouth is. Pushed by the United States and international lenders, Argentina and other Latin American nations have made great strides in modernizing their economies along free-market lines. Now, the government here is eager to secure Washington's help in preventing Brazil's currency crisis from affecting Argentina — including assistance with any potential plan to convert to the dollar. In a recent presentation, Mr. Pou offered three options, including an independent and swift change from pesos to dollars without U.S. involvement and a second that would involve a monetary treaty with the United States. A third and more ambitious proposal calls for much of Latin America to adopt the dollar in the same way that much of Europe has adopted the euro. That is considered a long shot, however, as Mexico and Chile, for example, already have voiced opposition to the idea. Argentine authorities prefer the idea of a monetary treaty under which the U.S.



Dollars are accepted at this newsstand and many other Argentine locales.

Federal Reserve would agree to provide Argentine banks with backup loans in an emergency. If Washington refused to go along with such an agreement, Argentina could still declare the dollar as its currency by decree, liquidating its pesos and conducting all official business in dollars. The amount of dollars generated

by such a move, analysts say, is not large enough to affect the dollar supply either internationally or in the United States. Initial talks on the proposal between Argentine and U.S. officials have gone "as well as can be expected," said one source at the Argentine central bank.

See PESO, Page 10

Lockheed Arms Itself For Battle in Congress

Showdown on \$2.7 Billion Bid for Comsat

By Leslie Wayne
New York Times Service

BETHESDA, Maryland — From his office in a suburban business park, John Sporyoe, president of Lockheed Martin Global Telecommunications, can gaze over to a nearby building that houses his goal: Comsat Corp., the quasi-government satellite company that Lockheed Martin Corp. wants to buy for \$2.7 billion. Without leaving his desk, Mr. Sporyoe can get a clear view of the big Comsat sign that stares back at him every time he looks up. But for Mr. Sporyoe and for Lockheed, Comsat is so near and yet so far away.

"I've been in the helicopter business before this," Mr. Sporyoe said. "And this deal has got more moving parts than a helicopter. We know we are going to have a fight on our hands. But we think the deal makes good business sense and is doable."

The Comsat deal would put Lockheed, the United States' No. 1 military contractor, into the major leagues of global telecommunications and provide it with much-needed diversification away from the vagaries of the Pentagon budget and policies. But to accomplish the deal, Lockheed needs approval of the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission, and even an act of Congress. Lining up to make life miserable for Lockheed at every step is a formidable array of rival commercial satellites companies, telecommunications giants, consumer groups and unsympathetic members of Congress, all of whom have different reasons for being hostile to Comsat and Lockheed. In the scorecard for the new Congress, this showdown is expected to be one of the biggest legislative battles affecting business this year.

This is because Lockheed is walking into a larger telecommunications industry minefield as it tries to acquire Comsat, the U.S. signatory and 19 percent owner of Intelsat, an international satellite network created decades ago

that Congress now wants to privatize. To acquire Comsat, Lockheed must thread its way through the larger issue of Intelsat deregulation. How Congress settles that issue could either scuttle the Comsat deal or create terms so onerous that no company would want to buy the satellite company. "Lockheed wants to be a much bigger player in a much faster-growing and more profitable business than their core defense business," said Peter Aseritis, an industry analyst with CSFB Securities. "It's a technology they feel they understand. But to buy Comsat, they have to go through all these complicated hurdles. If they can get through all those wickets, they could move to be one of the biggest players in global telecommunications."



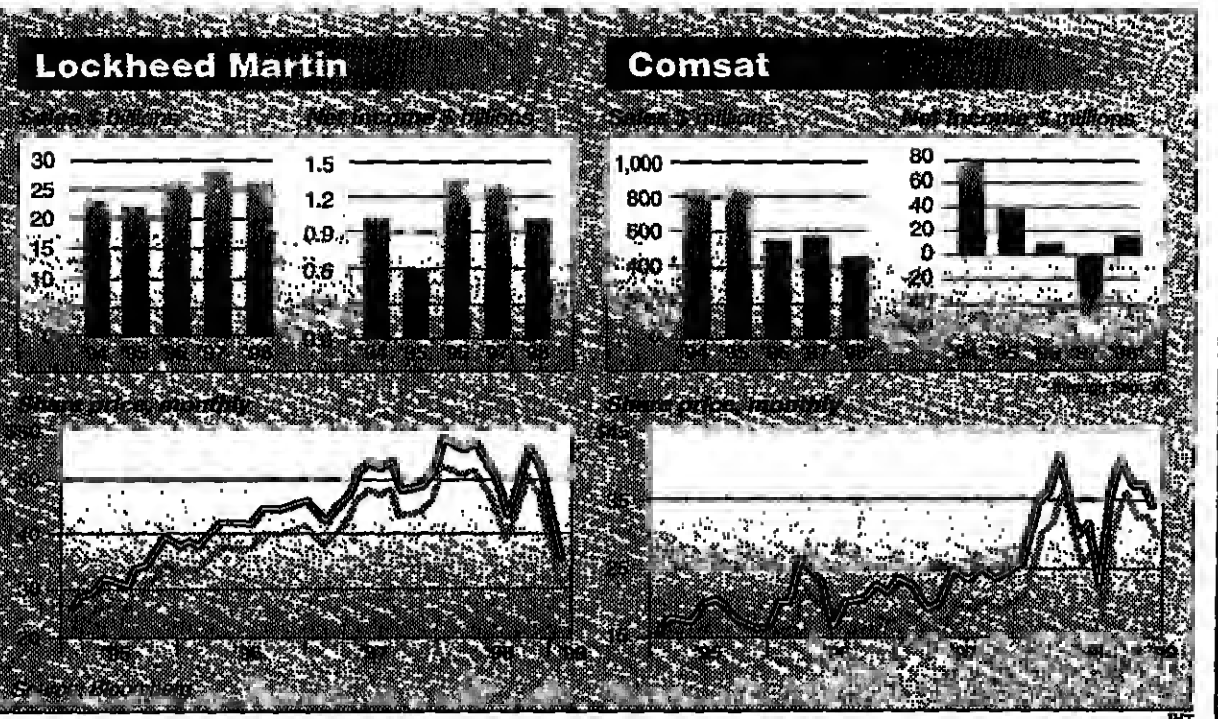
John Sporyoe, president of Lockheed Martin's global telecommunications unit.

"This deal has got more moving parts than a helicopter," says John Sporyoe, president of Lockheed Martin's global telecommunications unit.

Top contractors with the U.S. Department of Defense in the year ended Sept. 30, 1997. Contract values in billions.

Lockheed Martin	\$11.6
Boeing Company	9.6
Northrop Grumman	3.5
General Dynamics	3.0
Raytheon	2.9
General Motors	2.8
United Technologies	2.5
General Electric	1.7
Litton Industries	1.6
Textron	1.4

Source: U.S. Dept. of Defense



executive, Vance Coffman, has joined Mr. Sporyoe and other Lockheed executives in making three lobbying visits to Capitol Hill in the last month. Lockheed also has hired some of the heaviest hitters among Washington lobbyists. The 11 firms that will help the company's in-house team include Podesta Associates, run by the brother of John Podesta, the White House chief of staff; Verner Lippert Bernhard, McPherson & Hand, former Senator

Bob Dole's law firm; and former lawmakers, including Beryl Anthony, Democrat of Arkansas, a close associate of President Bill Clinton. Comsat has seven lobbying firms at its disposal. The two companies need this firepower because a measure to privatize Intelsat passed the House last year, 416-17, on terms Lockheed considered so onerous that it said it would walk away from the deal if the same bill was approved by Congress this year.

The bill died in the Senate in the last days of the 105th Congress. Comsat's foes say it has enjoyed a monopoly franchise on U.S. access to Intelsat's 24 commercial satellites for too long, and they want to strip Comsat of many of the privileges it enjoys — most important, immunity from the antitrust laws. Lockheed has expressed willingness to give up these privileges.

See LOCKHEED, Page 15

Microsoft Slips Up in Video Demonstration at Antitrust Trial

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It began as a Perry Mason moment. Pointing to a slight change in the text in a corner of a computer screen, a Justice Department attorney at the Microsoft antitrust trial forced a dramatic admission from a senior company executive on the witness stand on Tuesday: A sophisticated video demonstration created by Microsoft and played in the courtroom contained a major inaccuracy.

This video you brought in here, and vouched for to the court, and testified how much you checked, that's just wrong, isn't it?" David Boies, the Justice Department attorney, asked Microsoft's senior vice president, James Allchin. "They fixed the wrong system," Mr. Allchin acknowledged. Played on Monday, the videotape showed computers operating while using Windows 98 in its current form and with Internet features stripped away. It was intended to demonstrate that serious problems resulted from removing Internet technologies from the operating system.

But Mr. Boies, using a series of frames from the tape, argued that at the time the computer was said to be demonstrating one of the most compelling problems, the text on the screen indicated that Internet technologies had not actually been removed. Later in the day, though, after Mr. Allchin made a series of telephone calls to his subordinates at Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington, the witness changed his story: The computer used in the video demonstration really did have its Internet technologies removed, but for some reason, which Microsoft officials have not been able to pin down, the text label was erroneous.

Regardless of how the text came to be changed, legal specialists said the conflicting interpretations of the video could sully Microsoft's credibility in the courtroom and lead U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson to put little value on the video, which formed the centerpiece of Mr. Allchin's testimony. "Microsoft says this was some kind of mistake," Mr. Boies said. "I'm not going to stand here and say something nefarious happened in Redmond. All we know is that the tape they put in evidence is not reliable." But William Neukom, Microsoft's general counsel, likened the error to a wrong syllable in a word in a long essay.

Microsoft contends that Windows cannot operate properly without Internet technologies. Proving the contrary is central to the government's case. The Justice Department and 19 states allege that Windows 98 and Microsoft's Internet Explorer browsing software are separate products tied together in an illegal effort to crush its rival in the Internet browser market, Netscape Communications Corp. Earlier in the trial, a government witness, Professor Edward Felten of Princeton University, demonstrated a program he had written to delete portions of Internet Explorer from Windows. Government lawyers argued that Microsoft could create a similar program to offer consumers a version of Windows 98 without a browser. Microsoft has asserted that Mr. Felten's program slows Windows 98 and prevents some non-Internet functions from working properly.

CURRENCY RATES

Feb. 3

Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
Argentine peso	0.0098	Hong. dollar	219.92	N. Zealand \$	1.8332
Australian \$	1.5484	Indian rupee	42.495	Norway, krone	7.4625
Belgian franc	1.36	Israeli sheq.	8.6518	Polish zloty	3.98
British pound	0.69	Japanese yen	106.5	Romanian lei	2.55
Canadian \$	0.69	Korean won	177.8	S. African rand	17.12
Chinese yuan	8.2779	Malay. ringgit	3.4073	S. Korean won	177.8
Danish krone	6.46	Phil. peso	38.43	Taiwan \$	32.77
Deutsche mark	0.63	Portug. escudo	200.48	Thai baht	36.65
French franc	6.5595	Spanish peseta	166.384	Trinidad Trn	35.614
Italian lire	2.36	Singapore \$	1.367	U.S. dollar	1.00
Japanese yen	106.5	Sri Lanka \$	120.49	Venez. bolivar	575.5
South African rand	17.12	Swedish krona	8.46		
Swedish krona	8.46	Swiss franc	1.46		
Swiss franc	1.46				

Source: Associated Press.

Feb. 3

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South African rand	17.12	Swedish krona	8.46		
Swedish krona	8.46	Swiss franc	1.46		
Swiss franc	1.46				

Source: Associated Press.

to hack that claim, Microsoft produced the two-hour videotape, which purported to show the problems resulting from use of the Felten program, with narration by company engineers. Mr. Boies focused on just one segment Tuesday, which alleged that a Windows user without Internet Explorer would face problems trying to use

Goodyear Creates Top Tiremaker

U.S. Giant Forms Alliance With Sumitomo Rubber

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Sumitomo Rubber Industries Ltd. agreed Wednesday to combine their global operations, creating the largest tiremaker in the world, with sales of \$15.5 billion. Goodyear, the biggest U.S. tiremaker, will be the dominant partner, controlling combined operations in Europe and the United States. Sumitomo will control Japanese operations. The venture stops short of a merger, although the companies will exchange about \$110 million worth of stock, equivalent to 10 percent of Sumitomo shares and 1.4 percent of Goodyear stock.

But in most respects, the companies will operate as one. "If this were two American companies, they'd call it a straightforward acquisition," a person close to the talks said. Goodyear and Sumitomo have agreed to place many of their plants and marketing operations into joint ventures, with Goodyear owning the larger shares of most. Goodyear has agreed to pay Sumitomo \$1 billion in cash to make up for the inequity. By adding more than \$2.5 billion to its revenue, the deal will make Goodyear the largest tiremaker in the world, with a 22 percent market share. Until now, Goodyear, with 17 percent of worldwide sales, was behind Michelin SCA of France and Bridgestone Corp. of Japan. The alliance will allow Goodyear and Sumitomo to cut costs by eliminating jobs and negotiating better deals for raw materials. Goodyear said it would lay off 2,500 to 2,800 people and take a one-time restructuring charge of \$150 million.

The companies said cost savings would lift their combined operating earnings by \$300 million to \$360 million a year over the next three years. The deal includes plans to combine purchasing and research operations, but the key is the pooling of plants and distribution centers. In Western Europe, where Goodyear and Sumitomo each have about \$2 billion in sales, the companies will put their 14 plants into a joint venture that will sell Goodyear and Sumitomo tires. Goodyear will own 75 percent of the company. The deal also calls for Goodyear to take over 75 percent of Sumitomo's two U.S. factories, which have about \$800 million in sales.

There will be a minor-ownership structure in Japan, where Goodyear has maintained small marketing operations. Those will be folded into Sumitomo's operations, and Sumitomo will own a 75 percent stake.

Suppliers to the auto industry are seeking to extend their worldwide presence as carmakers such as DaimlerChrysler AG and Ford Motor Co. expand through acquisitions. "There will be more alliances in the tire industry," said Olivier Pouteau of CPR Finance in Paris. He said the alliance would put pressure on Michelin to seek acquisitions.

Shares of Sumitomo Rubber rose 42 yen to 573 yen (\$5.11). Goodyear shares went up \$1.375 to close at \$51.75 in New York. Shares in other tiremakers — including Michelin, Pirelli SpA of Italy and Continental AG of Germany — also rose on speculation that further alliances would allow companies to reduce costs and lift their earnings.

The slump in asset prices in Japan has made some companies there attractive to suitors. DaimlerChrysler and Renault are vying to buy a stake in Nissan Motor Co. — possibly a controlling one. Ford Motor Co. last year paid \$482 million to increase its stake in Mazda Motor Corp., the fifth-largest automaker in Japan, to 33.4 percent from 24.5 percent.

Michelin said it was interested in Asian acquisitions. "Asia is currently our weak point, and we're still on the lookout for acquisitions in the region," said Etienne Mercier, a company spokesman in Paris. "Plans for mergers and acquisitions in Japan are gaining steam," said Hiro-omasa Irie of Nomura Securities Co. (Bloomberg, NYT)

Commodity Prices: Depressed Outlook

WASHINGTON — Prices for oil, wheat, cotton, aluminum and other commodities that have fallen sharply since the Asian financial crisis may never recover fully due to advances in technology and freer trade that causes supply-demand imbalances, the World Bank said Wednesday. "Commodity prices may have taken another step down in the long history of declining prices relative to those of manufactured goods," the bank said in its inaugural Global Commodity Markets report. Over the past two years, prices for many primary commodities have declined more than 50 percent from previous highs, the bank said, with similar declines in each key sector: agriculture, energy and metals. The bank said the current low prices are the result of the Asian economic crisis and recent production-boosting technology advances.

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

12 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE 100 High Low Last Chg

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Wednesday's 4 P.M.
1,000 most traded National Market securities
terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

[illegible]

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 二百五十一、**裝訂說明**

[illegible][illegible]

Stock	Sales	High	Low
CV P A A	255	210	200
CV P A B	255	210	200
CV P A C	255	210	200
CV P A D	255	210	200
CV P A E	255	210	200
CV P A F	255	210	200
CV P A G	255	210	200
CV P A H	255	210	200
CV P A I	255	210	200
CV P A J	255	210	200
CV P A K	255	210	200
CV P A L	255	210	200
CV P A M	255	210	200
CV P A N	255	210	200
CV P A O	255	210	200
CV P A P	255	210	200
CV P A Q	255	210	200
CV P A R	255	210	200
CV P A S	255	210	200
CV P A T	255	210	200
CV P A U	255	210	200
CV P A V	255	210	200
CV P A W	255	210	200
CV P A X	255	210	200
CV P A Y	255	210	200
CV P A Z	255	210	200
CV P A A	255	210	200
CV P A B	255	210	200
CV P A C	255	210	200
CV P A D	255	210	200
CV P A E	255	210	200
CV P A F	255	210	200
CV P A G	255	210	200
CV P A H	255	210	200
CV P A I	255	210	200
CV P A J	255	210	200
CV P A K	255	210	200
CV P A L	255	210	200
CV P A M	255	210	200
CV P A N	255	210	200
CV P A O	255	210	200
CV P A P	255	210	200
CV P A Q	255	210	200
CV P A R	255	210	200
CV P A S	255	210	200
CV P A T	255	210	200
CV P A U	255	210	200
CV P A V	255	210	200
CV P A W	255	210	200
CV P A X	255	210	200
CV P A Y	255	210	200
CV P A Z	255	210	200

Label	Crp	Stock	Sales	High	Low	Label	Crp
2 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	10 1/2	10%
3 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	11 1/2	10%
4 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	12 1/2	10%
5 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	13 1/2	10%
6 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	14 1/2	10%
7 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	15 1/2	10%
8 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	16 1/2	10%
9 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	17 1/2	10%
10 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	18 1/2	10%
11 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	19 1/2	10%
12 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	20 1/2	10%
13 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	21 1/2	10%
14 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	22 1/2	10%
15 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	23 1/2	10%
16 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	24 1/2	10%
17 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	25 1/2	10%
18 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	26 1/2	10%
19 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	27 1/2	10%
20 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	28 1/2	10%
21 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	29 1/2	10%
22 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	30 1/2	10%
23 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	31 1/2	10%
24 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	32 1/2	10%
25 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	33 1/2	10%
26 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	34 1/2	10%
27 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	35 1/2	10%
28 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	36 1/2	10%
29 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	37 1/2	10%
30 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	38 1/2	10%
31 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	39 1/2	10%
32 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	40 1/2	10%
33 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	41 1/2	10%
34 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	42 1/2	10%
35 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	43 1/2	10%
36 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	44 1/2	10%
37 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	45 1/2	10%
38 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	46 1/2	10%
39 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	47 1/2	10%
40 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	48 1/2	10%
41 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	49 1/2	10%
42 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	50 1/2	10%
43 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	51 1/2	10%
44 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	52 1/2	10%
45 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	53 1/2	10%
46 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	54 1/2	10%
47 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	55 1/2	10%
48 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	56 1/2	10%
49 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	57 1/2	10%
50 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	58 1/2	10%
51 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	59 1/2	10%
52 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	60 1/2	10%
53 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	61 1/2	10%
54 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	62 1/2	10%
55 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	63 1/2	10%
56 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	64 1/2	10%
57 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	65 1/2	10%
58 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	66 1/2	10%
59 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	67 1/2	10%
60 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	68 1/2	10%
61 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	69 1/2	10%
62 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	70 1/2	10%
63 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	71 1/2	10%
64 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	72 1/2	10%
65 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	73 1/2	10%
66 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	74 1/2	10%
67 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	75 1/2	10%
68 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	76 1/2	10%
69 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	77 1/2	10%
70 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	78 1/2	10%
71 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	79 1/2	10%
72 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	80 1/2	10%
73 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	81 1/2	10%
74 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	82 1/2	10%
75 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	83 1/2	10%
76 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	84 1/2	10%
77 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	85 1/2	10%
78 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	86 1/2	10%
79 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	87 1/2	10%
80 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	88 1/2	10%
81 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	89 1/2	10%
82 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	90 1/2	10%
83 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	91 1/2	10%
84 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	92 1/2	10%
85 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	93 1/2	10%
86 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	94 1/2	10%
87 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	95 1/2	10%
88 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	96 1/2	10%
89 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	97 1/2	10%
90 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	98 1/2	10%
91 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	99 1/2	10%
92 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	100 1/2	10%
93 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	101 1/2	10%
94 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	102 1/2	10%
95 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	103 1/2	10%
96 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	104 1/2	10%
97 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	105 1/2	10%
98 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	106 1/2	10%
99 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	107 1/2	10%
100 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	108 1/2	10%
101 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	109 1/2	10%
102 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	110 1/2	10%
103 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	111 1/2	10%
104 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	112 1/2	10%
105 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	113 1/2	10%
106 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	114 1/2	10%
107 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	115 1/2	10%
108 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	116 1/2	10%
109 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	117 1/2	10%
110 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	118 1/2	10%
111 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	119 1/2	10%
112 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	120 1/2	10%
113 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	121 1/2	10%
114 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	122 1/2	10%
115 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	123 1/2	10%
116 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	124 1/2	10%
117 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	125 1/2	10%
118 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	126 1/2	10%
119 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	127 1/2	10%
120 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	128 1/2	10%
121 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	129 1/2	10%
122 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	130 1/2	10%
123 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	131 1/2	10%
124 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	132 1/2	10%
125 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	133 1/2	10%
126 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	134 1/2	10%
127 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	135 1/2	10%
128 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	136 1/2	10%
129 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	137 1/2	10%
130 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	138 1/2	10%
131 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	139 1/2	10%
132 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	140 1/2	10%
133 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	141 1/2	10%
134 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	142 1/2	10%
135 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	143 1/2	10%
136 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	144 1/2	10%
137 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	145 1/2	10%
138 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	146 1/2	10%
139 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	147 1/2	10%
140 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	148 1/2	10%
141 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	149 1/2	10%
142 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	150 1/2	10%
143 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	151 1/2	10%
144 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	152 1/2	10%
145 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	153 1/2	10%
146 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	154 1/2	10%
147 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	155 1/2	10%
148 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	156 1/2	10%
149 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	157 1/2	10%
150 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	158 1/2	10%
151 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	159 1/2	10%
152 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	160 1/2	10%
153 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	161 1/2	10%
154 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	162 1/2	10%
155 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	163 1/2	10%
156 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	164 1/2	10%
157 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	165 1/2	10%
158 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	166 1/2	10%
159 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	167 1/2	10%
160 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	168 1/2	10%
161 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	169 1/2	10%
162 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	170 1/2	10%
163 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1575	171 1/2	10%
164 1/2	40%	Smith-Cla	1625	1700	1		

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

[illegible]

1. 凡在本市范围内从事经营活动的个体工商户，均须依法向税务机关申报纳税。
 2. 个体工商户应按照规定的期限和地点，如实申报其经营所得。
 3. 税务机关有权依法对个体工商户的经营情况进行检查。
 4. 个体工商户不得隐瞒收入、虚报支出，否则将依法予以处罚。
 5. 个体工商户应妥善保管相关财务凭证，以备税务机关查验。
 6. 个体工商户应按时缴纳税款，不得逾期不缴。
 7. 个体工商户应遵守国家法律法规，诚信经营。
 8. 个体工商户应积极配合税务机关的工作，共同维护税收秩序。
 9. 个体工商户应加强自身财务管理，提高依法纳税意识。
 10. 个体工商户应主动接受社会监督，树立良好形象。

[illegible]

年次	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
人口	1,000,000	1,050,000	1,100,000	1,150,000	1,200,000	1,250,000	1,300,000	1,350,000	1,400,000	1,450,000	1,500,000	1,550,000	1,600,000	1,650,000	1,700,000	1,750,000	1,800,000	1,850,000	1,900,000	1,950,000	2,000,000	2,050,000	2,100,000	2,150,000	2,200,000	2,250,000	2,300,000	2,350,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	2,550,000	2,600,000	2,650,000	2,700,000	2,750,000	2,800,000	2,850,000	2,900,000	2,950,000	3,000,000	3,050,000	3,100,000	3,150,000	3,200,000	3,250,000	3,300,000	3,350,000	3,400,000	3,450,000	3,500,000	3,550,000	3,600,000	3,650,000	3,700,000	3,750,000	3,800,000	3,850,000	3,900,000	3,950,000	4,000,000	4,050,000	4,100,000	4,150,000	4,200,000	4,250,000	4,300,000	4,350,000	4,400,000	4,450,000	4,500,000	4,550,000	4,600,000	4,650,000	4,700,000	4,750,000	4,800,000	4,850,000	4,900,000	4,950,000	5,000,000	5,050,000	5,100,000	5,150,000	5,200,000	5,250,000	5,300,000	5,350,000	5,400,000	5,450,000	5,500,000	5,550,000	5,600,000	5,650,000	5,700,000	5,750,000	5,800,000	5,850,000	5,900,000	5,950,000	6,000,000	6,050,000	6,100,000	6,150,000	6,200,000	6,250,000	6,300,000	6,350,000	6,400,000	6,450,000	6,500,000	6,550,000	6,600,000	6,650,000	6,700,000	6,750,000	6,800,000	6,850,000	6,900,000	6,950,000	7,000,000	7,050,000	7,100,000	7,150,000	7,200,000	7,250,000	7,300,000	7,350,000	7,400,000	7,450,000	7,500,000	7,550,000	7,600,000	7,650,000	7,700,000	7,750,000	7,800,000	7,850,000	7,900,000	7,950,000	8,000,000	8,050,000	8,100,000	8,150,000	8,200,000	8,250,000	8,300,000	8,350,000	8,400,000	8,450,000	8,500,000	8,550,000	8,600,000	8,650,000	8,700,000	8,750,000	8,800,000	8,850,000	8,900,000	8,950,000	9,000,000	9,050,000	9,100,000	9,150,000	9,200,000	9,250,000	9,300,000	9,350,000	9,400,000	9,450,000	9,500,000	9,550,000	9,600,000	9,650,000	9,700,000	9,750,000	9,800,000	9,850,000	9,900,000	9,950,000	10,000,000	10,050,000	10,100,000	10,150,000	10,200,000	10,250,000	10,300,000	10,350,000	10,400,000	10,450,000	10,500,000	10,550,000	10,600,000	10,650,000	10,700,000	10,750,000	10,800,000	10,850,000	10,900,000	10,950,000	11,000,000	11,050,000	11,100,000	11,150,000	11,200,000	11,250,000	11,300,000	11,350,000	11,400,000	11,450,000	11,500,000	11,550,000	11,600,000	11,650,000	11,700,000	11,750,000	11,800,000	11,850,000	11,900,000	11,950,000	12,000,000	12,050,000	12,100,000	12,150,000	12,200,000	12,250,000	12,300,000	12,350,000	12,400,000	12,450,000	12,500,000	12,550,000	12,600,000	12,650,000	12,700,000	12,750,000	12,800,000	12,850,000	12,900,000	12,950,000	13,000,000	13,050,000	13,100,000	13,150,000	13,200,000	13,250,000	13,300,000	13,350,000	13,400,000	13,450,000	13,500,000	13,550,000	13,600,000	13,650,000	13,700,000	13,750,000	13,800,000	13,850,000	13,900,000	13,950,000	14,000,000	14,050,000	14,100,000	14,150,000	14,200,000	14,250,000	14,300,000	14,350,000	14,400,000	14,450,000	14,500,000	14,550,000	14,600,000	14,650,000	14,700,000	14,750,000	14,800,000	14,850,000	14,900,000	14,950,000	15,000,000	15,050,000	15,100,000	15,150,000	15,200,000	15,250,000	15,300,000	15,350,000	15,400,000	15,450,000	15,500,000	15,550,000	15,600,000	15,650,000	15,700,000	15,750,000	15,800,000	15,850,000	15,900,000	15,950,000	16,000,000	16,050,000	16,100,000	16,150,000	16,200,000	16,250,000	16,300,000	16,350,000	16,400,000	16,450,000	16,500,000	16,550,000	16,600,000	16,650,000	16,700,000	16,750,000	16,800,000	16,850,000	16,900,000	16,950,000	17,000,000	17,050,000	17,100,000	17,150,000	17,200,000	17,250,000	17,300,000	17,350,000	17,400,000	17,450,000	17,500,000	17,550,000	17,600,000	17,650,000	17,700,000	17,750,000	17,800,000	17,850,000	17,900,000	17,950,000	18,000,000	18,050,000	18,100,000	18,150,000	18,200,000	18,250,000	18,300,000	18,350,000	18,400,000	18,450,000	18,500,000	18,550,000	18,600,000	18,650,000	18,700,000	18,750,000	18,800,000	18,850,000	18,900,000	18,950,000	19,000,000	19,050,000	19,100,000	19,150,000	19,200,000	19,250,000	19,300,000	19,350,000	19,400,000	19,450,000	19,500,000	19,550,000	19,600,000	19,650,000	19,700,000	19,750,000	19,800,000	19,850,000	19,900,000	19,950,000	20,000,000	20,050,000	20,100,000	20,150,000	20,200,000	20,250,000	20,300,000	20,350,000	20,400,000	20,450,000	20,500,000	20,550,000	20,600,000	20,650,000	20,700,000	20,750,000	20,800,000	20,850,000	20,900,000	20,950,000	21,000,000	21,050,000	21,100,000	21,150,000	21,200,000	21,250,000	21,300,000	21,350,000	21,400,000	21,450,000	21,500,000	21,550,000	21,600,000	21,650,000	21,700,000	21,750,000	21,800,000	21,850,000	21,900,000	21,950,000	22,000,000	22,050,000	22,100,000	22,150,000	22,200,000	22,250,000	22,300,000	22,350,000	22,400,000	22,450,000	22,500,000	22,550,000	22,600,000	22,650,000	22,700,000	22,750,000	22,800,000	22,850,000	22,900,000	22,950,000	23,000,000	23,050,000	23,100,000	23,150,000	23,200,000	23,250,000	23,300,000	23,350,000	23,400,000	23,450,000	23,500,000	23,550,000	23,600,000	23,650,000	23,700,000	23,750,000	23,800,000	23,850,000	23,900,000	23,950,000	24,000,000	24,050,000	24,100,000	24,150,000	24,200,000	24,250,000	24,300,000	24,350,000	24,400,000	24,450,000	24,500,000	24,550,000	24,600,000	24,650,000	24,700,000	24,750,000	24,800,000	24,850,000	24,900,000	24,950,000	25,000,000	25,050,000	25,100,000	25,150,000	25,200,000	25,250,000	25,300,000	25,350,000	25,400,000	25,450,000	25,500,000	25,550,000	25,600,000	25,650,000	25,700,000	25,750,000	25,800,000	25,850,000	25,900,000	25,950,000	26,000,000	26,050,000	26,100,000	26,150,000	26,200,000	26,250,000	26,300,000	26,350,000	26,400,000	26,450,000	26,500,000	26,550,000	26,600,000	26,650,000	26,700,000	26,750,000	26,800,000	26,850,000	26,900,000	26,950,000	27,000,000	27,050,000	27,100,000	27,150,000	27,200,000	27,250,000	27,300,000	27,350,000	27,400,000	27,450,000	27,500,000	27,550,000	27,600,000	27,650,000	27,700,000	27,750,000	27,800,000	27,850,000	27,900,000	27,950,000	28,000,000	28,050,000	28,100,000	28,150,000	28,200,000	28,250,000	28,300,000	28,350,000	28,400,000	28,450,000	28,500,000	28,550,000	28,600,000	28,650,000	28,700,000	28,750,000	28,800,000	28,850,000	28,900,000	28,950,000	29,000,000	29,050,000	29,100,000	29,150,000	29,200,000	29,250,000	29,300,000	29,350,000	29,400,000	29,450,000	29,500,000	29,550,000	29,600,000	29,650,000	29,700,000	29,750,000	29,800,000	29,850,000	29,900,000	29,950,000	30,000,000	30,050,000	30,100,000	30,150,000	30,200,000	30,250,000	30,300,000	30,350,000	30,400,000	30,450,000	30,500,000	30,550,000	30,600,000	30,650,000	30,700,000	30,750,000	30,800,000	30,850,000	30,900,000	30,950,000	31,000,000	31,050,000	31,100,000	31,150,000	31,200,000	31,250,000	31,300,000	31,350,000	31,400,000	31,450,000	31,500,000	31,550,000	31,600,000	31,650,000	31,700,000	31,750,000	31,800,000	31,850,000	31,900,000	31,950,000	32,000,000	32,050,000	32,100,000	32,150,000	32,200,000	32,250,000	32,300,000	32,350,000	32,400,000	32,450,000	32,500,000	32,550,000	32,600,000	32,650,000	32,700,000	32,750,000	32,800,000	32,850,000	32,900,000	32,950,000	33,000,000	33,050,000	33,100,000	33,150,000	33,200,000	33,250,000	33,300,000	33,350,000	33,400,000	33,450,000	33,500,000	33,550,000	33,600,000	33,650,000	33,700,000	33,750,000	33,800,000	33,850,000	33,900,000	33,950,000	34,000,000	34,050,000	34,100,000	34,150,000	34,200,000	34,250,000	34,300,000	34,350,000	34,400,000	34,450,000	34,500,000	34,550,000	34,600,000	34,650,000	34,700,000	34,750,000	34,800,000	34,850,000	34,900,000	34,950,000	35,000,000	35,050,000	35,100,000	35,150,000	35,200,000	35,250,000	35,300,000	35,350,000	35,400,000	35,450,000	35,500,000	35,550,000	35,600,000	35,650,000	35,700,000	35,750,000	35,800,000	35,850,000	35,900,000	35,950,000	36,000,000	36,050,000	36,100,000	36,150,000	36,200,000	36,250,000	36,300,000	36,350,000	36,400,000	36,450,000	36,500,000	36,550,000	36,600,000	36,650,000	36,700,000	36,750,000	36,800,000	36,850,000	36,900,000	36,950,000	37,000,000	37,050,000	37,100,000	37,150,000	37,200,000	37,250,000	37,300,000	37,350,000	37,400,000	37,450,000	37,500,000	37,550,000	37,600,000	37,650,000	37,700,000	37,750,000	37,800,000	37,850,000	37,900,000	37,950,000	38,000,000	38,050,000	38,100,000	38,150,000	38,200,000	38,250,

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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ART BUCHWALD

Impeachment Quiz

NEW YORK — It's time for your impeachment trial quiz.

1. How many senators does it take to screw in a light bulb? (Hint: It takes a simple majority of 51 senators, but it takes 67 to screw someone for a high crime and misdemeanor.)

2. Name five founding fathers of the United States who never tried to find a job for one of their in-laws at Revlon.

3. Name five founding fathers who never bought gifts on Martha's Vineyard for someone other than their wives.

4. Name at least one U.S. senator (in either party) who never lied to the American people.

5. Name 100 U.S. senators who have lied to the American people for the good of their country, their grandchildren or the political party for which they took an oath to serve.

6. If you were a Ken Starr witness and refused to rat on the president, could Starr, as

special prosecutor, take your Social Security, your car, your dog or your season basketball tickets away from you?

7. The second highest position in the land is that of first lady. In her position, can she pardon the president? Has she pardoned the president? Why would she want to pardon the president?

8. A person from a Southeast Asian nation comes to you and says he and his friends at the Buddhist monastery are organizing a political defense-fund dinner in Teaneck, New Jersey. Do you buy a table?

9. Which of the following things would happen if the president were accused of masterminding the Brink's armored truck robbery?

(a) He would go up in the polls by 20 points.

(b) The stock market would go up by 20 points.

(c) The president would apologize to the American people and offer to raise their Social Security by 20 percent.

(d) Dick Morris would tell the president not to worry because the American people believe Brink's has more money than it knows what to do with.

New York Opens Play Festival

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Like the literary equivalent of the Australian Open or Wimbledon, a knockout playwriting tournament began here Wednesday night with four plays presented under the auspices of the Turnip Theater Company at the Studio, at 145 West 46th St.

The event is the "New York City 15-Minute Play Festival," comprising 32 original short plays chosen from 250 entries nationwide and competing through Feb. 20.

At each performance, the audience votes for its favorite. Winners from the first two weeks move on to finals week, when they compete for cash prizes and the accolades of audiences and theater professionals.

In Los Angeles, a Dream Factory for Musicians

By Neil Strauss
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Perhaps the best place to spot pop, rock and rap superstars, up-and-comers and has-beens in this city is not the bars and clubs, but the music stores. Making it as a musician may require talent, persistence and opportunity, but before that one needs gear.

The Guitar Center, the chain that began here in 1964 as the Vox Guitar Center, ranks among the United States' biggest clearing-houses for ambition.

When musicians sign contracts with music labels, they run to the Guitar Center to spend their advance money. When bands in studios blow out an amp or snap a guitar string, they usually replace it at the Guitar Center. And when an actor or a retired plumber suddenly decides on a career change, the neophyte's first investment is often at the Guitar Center.

The store's customer list over the decades reads like a pop music reference book, including Bo Diddley, Stevie Ray Vaughan, the Ventures, Stevie Wonder, Jeff Beck, New Edition, Melissa Etheridge, Smashing Pumpkins and Alanis Morissette, not to mention less-esteemed aspiring musicians like David Kersha and Charles Manson.

To take the pulse of musical activity in Los Angeles, the dream factory responsible for much of American pop music, one can just spend a day at the Guitar Center.

On a recent Friday there, Guns 'n' Roses picked up \$700 worth of drum equipment. The alternative pop group Fountains of Wayne stopped in looking for a vintage yellow guitar for a video they were filming. Remy Zero and Mötley Crüe called seeking gear for their tours. The rhythm-and-blues group Sons of Funk, on Master P's No Limit label, checked out drum machines for their new album. The actor Robert Downey Jr. picked up some headphones for his music project.

A formerly successful heavy-metal guitarist who reeked of alcohol at 10 A.M. and asked that his name not be used replaced equipment he had pawned elsewhere. The country star Clint Black called to say he would be stopping by. A Los Angeles Dodge phoned for a price quote on equipment. And Matthew Nelson (a son of Ricky Nelson and half of the group Nelson) spent hours shopping. Not bad for what employees called a quiet day.

"My dad got me my first instrument here



Buck Dow, who plays with a band called Buck, checking out the merchandise.

when I was seven," Nelson said as he stood in the huge guitar section in a cowboy shirt.

"I got a three-quarter-sized bass guitar and my brother got a little drum set. They thought it would be just a hobby, but we were back when we were 11 buying real instruments. And the guy who sold me my guitar then is now general manager of the store."

The man to whom Nelson referred is Dave Weidman, who is actually the store's director of artist relations, as well as a former touring drummer with Peter Brown and a font of guitar lore. He likes to talk about when the Sultan of Swag bought a roomful of equipment for a party and had the store's staff come to his hotel to help set it up.

Then there was the time Stevie Wonder met a boy who came to the store daily and played the piano wistfully, hoping one day to buy it for his church.

"You sound good," Wonder said before buying the shocked boy the instrument. And Weidman recounts the time Bo Diddley brought homemade barbecue for the staff.

"It gives you a sense of pride," Weidman said. "You're dealing with your heroes, and they're looking to you for advice."

The Guitar Center began humbly as an extension of the Organ Center chain, its spe-

cially intended to capitalize on Beatlemania. It has expanded along Sunset Strip, filling a former movie theater and a rehearsal hall next door, and it is filled with guitars, including a basement full of rare instruments.

The rest of the nearly 40,000-square-foot (3,600-square-meter) store is filled with almost everything that a musician, studio technician, DJ or roadie could want: computer programs, stage lights, mixing consoles, turntables, synthesizers, travel cases.

The store's critics complain of relentless expansion nationwide — the chain's 49th store is scheduled to open in Long Island City, New York, this spring — and price mark-downs that are driving smaller independent stores out of business. Last year, the publicly held company had revenue of \$391 million.

Weidman's response is that "whenever we go into a new territory, it increases business for the mom-and-pop." He cited several guitar stores that had opened near the flagship in Los Angeles.

Not everybody who shops at the Guitar Center is famous. Some of the store's most interesting customers are not familiar faces. As its salespeople say repeatedly, the store motto is "Treat a celebrity like a regular guy and treat a regular guy like a celebrity."

That Friday, for example, a group of fresh-faced teenagers hoping to be as big as the Backstreet Boys bought tens of thousands of dollars worth of studio equipment. Jonathan Shneidman, a computer and interface designer for digital video disks, spent nearly six hours selecting electronic equipment to play live on the Internet. And representatives of a church in South Korea bought a public address system.

The cliché music store experience is to walk in and see dozens of teenagers playing Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" on guitar with no intention of making a purchase. Within a half hour of the store's opening that Friday the song had already been played twice, but a new trend seemed to be emerging. In the guitar section, many customers were experimenting with alternate tunings, employees said.

More strikingly, most teenagers who walked through the door went not to the guitars but to the drum machines and samplers. What guitar riffing was to kids in the '80s, beat-making (programming hip-hop and dance rhythms) is to teenagers today.

Part of the Guitar Center's cachet is its 185 salespeople. Almost all are musicians, usually older men past their glory days or younger ones hoping that their big break will come even faster through contacts made at the Guitar Center. To see a stereotypical image of the technically minded musician's musician, look around the store: At one point in the studio-equipment room, the ratio of employees with ponytails to those without was 4 to 1.

"I put my hair in a ponytail because it looks more professional," explained one. "But if I want to relate to a heavy-metal musician, I can just pop my hair out and let it hang."

Slade came to the store looking for CDs of drum loops that he had ordered. The store did not have them yet and Slade was crestfallen, explaining that he could not work without them. Moved by Slade's disappointment — or maybe just bored on this relatively slow Friday — an employee, Johnny DeLeon, drove to the supplier's office half an hour away in Century City to pick up the CDs and make the \$64.84 sale. Slade tried to stuff a \$20 tip into DeLeon's pocket, but he declined.

Asked what led him to go so far out of his way for such a small sale, DeLeon just smiled and shrugged, reciting the Guitar Center credo. "Treat a celebrity like a regular guy and treat a regular guy like a celebrity."

PEOPLE



GREETINGS — The exiled Iranian author Faradsch Sarkuhi embracing the Nigerian poet Ogaga Ifowod as they met Wednesday at a writers' seminar, "Berlin — City of Escape." Sarkuhi now lives in Germany.

THE Public Broadcasting Service must pay nearly \$47 million to the former Monkees Michael Nesmith and his defunct company for defrauding him in a home video deal that sank the firm. A federal jury in Los Angeles decided that PBS went behind Nesmith's back to steal the home video rights to such popular fare as "Sesame Street" and the Ken Burns documentary "The Civil War" while promising to keep his faltering firm afloat. Nesmith's company, Pacific Arts, made a deal in 1990 to distribute the PBS Home Video Line. Nesmith, 56, was the hat-and-sideburns-wearing member of the Monkees.

Protesters heckled Thailand's forestry chief, Plodprasop Suraswadi, for allowing the shooting of a Leonardo DiCaprio movie on a protected beach. Several activists showed up at the headquarters of the Forestry Department as Plodprasop was making a speech. He told the hecklers they should leave the matter to the courts and stop "treating me like an animal," the Bangkok Post

quoted him as saying. Environmentalists are suing Plodprasop, saying the 20th Century Fox production is spoiling Phi Phi Island's fragile ecosystem. The filmmakers have ended shooting and say they are returning the beach to its pre-filming state.

Siegfried and Roy, who were warned

D.A.R.E., an anti-drug program used in

The Singer Sinead O'Connor Strikes Back

Agence France Press

LONDON — The Irish rock singer Sinead O'Connor says she will sue the father of her daughter after his charges that she had neglected the 2-year-old were dismissed. O'Connor said the Irish journalist John Waters' accusations arose out of "malice and vindictiveness."

"It's the worst thing that you could accuse a person of, other than sexual abuse," she said from her home in north London. She said she would sue him for filing a malicious report and for "the damage to my career and family life."

A social services spokesman confirmed that a social worker had visited the house and that the agency would not be taking the matter any further.

"Now John will have to go through the courts and let the judges work out how and when he can see Roisin. He has just made life much more difficult for himself."

schools across the United States, has sued Rolling Stone magazine for \$50 million, contending it was libeled in an article written by a journalist who admitted making up part of the story. The article by Stephen Glass said D.A.R.E., or Drug Abuse Resistance Education, tried to "silence critics, suppress scientific research and punish nonbelievers." The federal lawsuit alleges that Rolling Stone's managing editor, Robert Love, requested a derogatory article about D.A.R.E. to further efforts by the editor and publisher, Jann Wenner, to "discredit anti-drug organizations." Glass was a writer for the New Republic when he confessed to making up stories for that magazine and others, including Rolling Stone.

He has conquered film, stage and television. Now John Lithgow has decided to chart untested waters with a singing career. The star of "Third Rock From the Sun" is releasing his first album next month, "Singin' in the Bathroom." The collection of swing style tunes will be aimed at children.



(kick off your shoes)

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